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CATS OF
MANY
COLOURS

VET VISIT:
COPING WITH
THE STRESS



FUN TOYS:
DO OUR CATS
NEED THEM?



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EAT RIGHT: HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAT HEALTHY

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welcome



SO THAT'S it then. Children are back at school, the nights are getting longer and we're looking forward to an Indian summer. I don't mean that to sound negative - I really like Autumn. It's good to get a sunny, warm weekend and tidy up the garden, hedgerows are bursting with juicy berries to harvest and freeze, and the trees are turning beautiful shades of gold, red and brown.

Autumn is also time to prepare for winter. A health check with your vet will reassure you that all is well but do try to prepare your cat in advance to reduce the stress. We have a focus on vet visits as a survey finds that cat bites and scratches are one of the most common injuries vets face.

As our pets start to spend more time indoors with us now, we look at easy ways to keep them entertained and comfortable. Find out how some of the Cat World team's cats like to amuse themselves.

Of course it wouldn't be an October issue without a thought for black cats but the stories here are all positive ones.

I hope you enjoy your Indian summer

Jill

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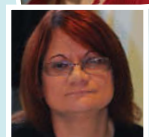
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Write for Cat World

We're always looking for new writers to join our talented team of contributors. So if you have a talent for writing, and a passion for cats, we'd love to hear from you. We especially want to expand our team of specialist writers, with an in-depth knowledge of particular areas. So if you think you fit the bill email richard@ashdown.co.uk

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MEWSROUND

CAT NEWS & GOSSIP

Help for Oxford University from US animal lovers

A wild-cat loving couple of natural resource investors from the US recently pledged to match donations to a fund raising campaign by Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Unit, to a total of \$100,000. The conservation unit is home to the researchers who were tracking movements of Cecil the Lion before he was enticed out of a Zimbabwean national park and killed.

The research team hope to continue in their work to establish the best way to stop the alarming rate at which the world's big cats are disappearing.



Taking over the (digital) world

It seems our beloved felines are much in demand as we also learn that the Museum of the Moving Image in New York has recently opened an exhibition called 'How Cats Took Over The Internet' with a look at the cats who have become internet and social media sensations - Grumpy Cat, being one of the most widely known. Running until January 31st 2016, visitors can also watch a looped series of cat videos on a large screen. That should be a bit different to viewing them on your mobile!



Cat-owning baking enthusiasts will be able to pick up tips on how to keep puss in shape by visiting Cats Protection at this year's Cake & Bake Show.

The UK's leading feline welfare charity will be attending the show this October at London Excel, with a stand bursting with cat care information and guides.

Cats Protection's Events Manager Emma Osborne said there would be plenty of advice on hand for owners who want to keep their cats in tip-top health: "As any cat lover knows, there's only one thing better than a nice cup of tea – that's a cup of tea with a slice of cake and a purring cat by your side.

"We're really looking forward to meeting show visitors who share our love of cats and sweet treats. And we're really hoping to see how cat-loving bakers may have used our feline friends to inspire their cake decorations – so do bring along your photos!"

But there is a serious side to all this.

"While most show visitors will probably have something of a sweet tooth, it's important to remember cats shouldn't indulge in the same way. Cats shouldn't be fed food intended for humans, such as chocolate, and owners should take care to ensure their cat does not become overweight, which can cause

Cakes, cooks and Cats Protection

serious health problems."

Cats Protection will be advising visitors of their healthy feeding tips for cat owners, which include:

- Like humans, cats need a balanced diet with the right amount of nutrients, so it's best to stick to a reputable pet food which includes everything cats need to stay fit and healthy.
- If you wish to give extra titbits, choose specially-produced cat food treats rather than food intended for humans, such as chocolate.
- Avoid giving raw meat or table scraps, although a little bit of well-cooked fresh chicken or fish is ok.
- Remember that cats normally appreciate attention or playtime with their owner more than titbits. If you are giving a food treat in addition to your cat's meals, remember to limit the amount given so your cat doesn't gain weight.



Cat flap top tip

I thought it would be worth mentioning to Cat World readers that I have found a vast improvement in the number of eye infections/weeping eyes suffered by our two cats by regularly cleaning both sides of the cat flap with anti bacterial spray/solution/wipes. (I use Dettol household wipes). Rinse off afterwards if you like.

The cats push the cat flap open with head and paws so their foreheads pick up dirt etc everytime they go in and out of the flap.

It probably seems an obvious thing to do, but perhaps some readers may not have thought of it.

Anthony Jones



Do the blep

Little did we know when we sent the September issue of Cat World to print that we were following a current online trend...No sure what this is? Well, according to the press, the latest trend amongst tech-savvy cat owners is to post a photo on social media sites of their cats or kittens with their tongues poking out!

The pic can be taken while the cat is awake or asleep and although the craze seems to have started with cats, it now incorporates dogs, horses and other animals. So get your cameras out and get c-licking.



Happy holiday - with your pet

New research figures claim that the number of pets holidaying abroad with their owners has increased dramatically as owners realise it has been made much easier to take their cat, dog or other pet with them to places such as France, Spain and Italy via the Chanel Tunnel. Vets say the number of Pet Passports issued has doubled in the last four years as the time needed to get appropriate documentation has dropped from six months to around three weeks. So what are you waiting for?

Vets ask for help from pet owners

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is urging veterinary teams and pet owners to work together to improve safety in surgeries as new figures reveal that two-thirds (64%) of small animal vets have been injured in the course of their work in the last year.

BVA's Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey found that by far the most common injuries were scratches and bites: 90% of injured vets had received scratches and 78% had suffered bites. Other injuries included lacerations beyond surface scratching and bruising from kicks.

Small animal vets are more likely to be injured than other vets in clinical practice, with 65% of small animal vets responding that they had been injured in the last year compared with 61% of equine

vets and 53% of production animal vets. Injuries reported included severe dog bites, sometimes requiring antibiotics, and

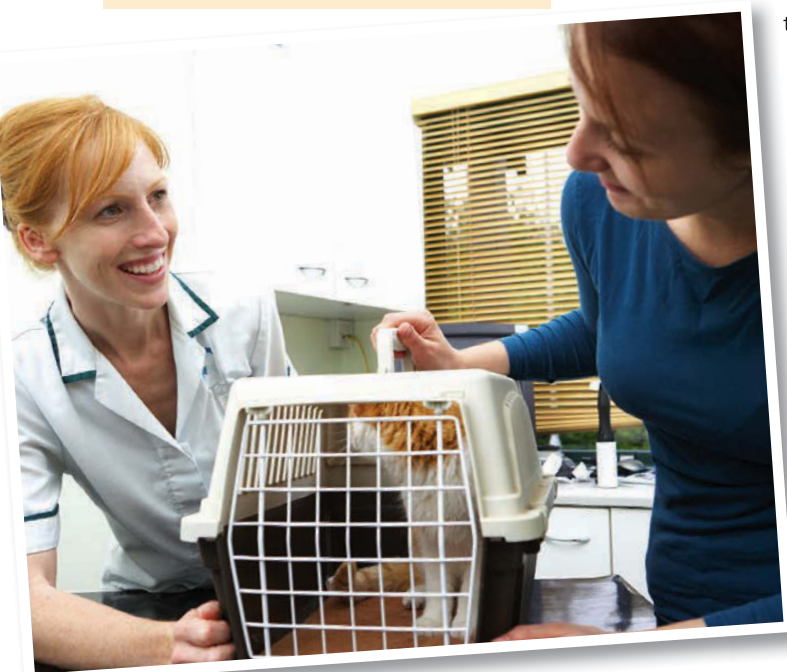
it was found that "deep cat bites are most common, then superficial scratches."

BVA President John Blackwell emphasised the importance of owners and vets working together to ensure the best care of a loved pet while keeping everyone safe. He said:

"Vets accept the daily risk of injury at work but these figures highlight just how common injuries are for vets who care for pets. Rather than simply accepting this as an 'occupational hazard', veterinary teams should ensure they are taking all appropriate measures to mitigate the risks of working with animals whenever possible. BVA provides guidance for vets, for example on preventing and dealing with dog bites in the practice.

"We also ask pet owners to work with us. The surgery can be a strange and unsettling place for animals and even the most usually placid pet can become nervous. We would urge owners to inform the vet if their animal has shown anxious behaviour on previous visits to the surgery."

There was a marked regional difference in the percentage of vets answering 'yes' to the question of injuries sustained during practice in the last 12 months, with the largest number (69%) in the North West, closely followed by the East Midlands (66%) down to just 33% in London and an amazing 10% in Northern Ireland.



Above: Inform the vet if your cat has been anxious on previous visits to the surgery.

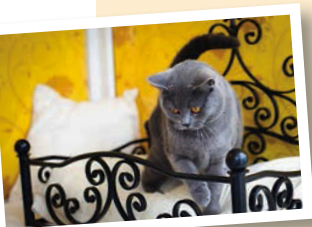


Cat hotel wins family business award

More than three hundred people descended upon Shakespeare's Globe in London for the sixth annual Red Ribbon Awards - celebrating the achievements of Britain's finest family-run businesses.

After months of searching, interviewing and filming, 11 family firms were crowned winners of the UK's most prestigious family business accolade and Longcroft Luxury Cat Hotels were honoured to be awarded the 'Commended for Excellence' certificate in the 'Innovation' category in recognition of their achievements as a family business.

Founder Abi Purser said: "Being honoured as an innovative company amongst such talented businesses is recognition of the hard work and dedication of our amazing Longcroft family. We are delighted by the result and are confident that such accolades will only drive our business further forward."



Tom and Jerry's great adventure

Two eight week old kittens were recently found in a car that had been towed from the Swindon area to Bridgend - some 87 miles. All the windows had been broken in the car which had been towed back to a Bridgend garage.

RSPCA inspector Julie Fadden, who was called to the garage, said: "Somehow kittens got into the car and stayed in it when it came back to Wales. Both were terrified and I had to use a trap to catch them. But they are fine - they are well fed and are not feral, so they must be owned by someone. The garage has nick-named them Tom and Jerry - because they had such an adventure."

The kittens were not microchipped so the RSPCA were appealing for information to try and track down who they belong to.

"This is a reminder to owners about



how important it is to get your pets microchipped as soon as possible. There could very well be an owner out there who is worried sick and desperately looking for these two little animals - but we have no way of knowing who they might be."

Rob Robertson from Robertson Transport Services said they were quite surprised to find the kittens in the car: "It was a bit of a shock but we gave them some water and food and they were fine."

The two kittens were taken into RSPCA care, and will be made available for rehoming if an owner is not found.

Charity reacts to cat poisonings in Lincolnshire

Following reports that more than 44 cats have died after being poisoned with anti-freeze and ecstasy in an area of Boston, Lincolnshire over the last two years, a Cats Protection spokesperson said: "This is an absolutely horrific act of cruelty and the pain and suffering inflicted on these cats does not bear thinking about. We want to express our deepest sympathies to the owners who have lost their beloved cats and would strongly urge anyone with any information about the poisonings to please contact the police or the RSPCA. It is vital that everything possible is done to ensure this shocking act does not go unpunished."

"Symptoms of anti-freeze poisoning include dizziness, loss of co-ordination and vomiting, so if your cat shows any of these signs then please take them to a local vet immediately."

New veterinary nurse apprenticeships

Medivet has been approved to lead the new government apprenticeship Trailblazer programme in collaboration with several other organisations. The process will see this group take the lead on reforming the way veterinary nurse training is currently delivered by developing brand new apprenticeship standards for the industry.

Skills Minister Nick Boles said: "Businesses must have their say in training tomorrow's workforce. Giving employers the power to design apprenticeships means apprentices graduate with the skills they need for the job they want and businesses get the talent they need to grow."

Julie Dugmore, Head of Veterinary Nursing at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said: "As the regulator of veterinary nurses we need to make sure that those student veterinary nurses who go through the apprenticeship training scheme are being given training that meets our educational standards and that, upon finishing the training, they are able to meet the professional standards we expect all registered veterinary nurses to possess from the time they enter practice."

"Our involvement in this project will be to help develop the apprenticeship standard for student veterinary nurses along with an assessment plan and proactively monitor the apprenticeship scheme for quality assurance purposes."

Erwin Hohn, a senior partner in Medivet, said: "Our aim is to train the next generation of veterinary nurses to an exceptional standard and, ultimately, to continue to improve the delivery of first class veterinary care to our clients."



Vet's Kitchen's new Ultra-Fresh

The launch of Vet's Kitchen's revolutionary new cat food has prompted an urgent appeal from eager cats to owners and cat lovers everywhere

Hello there. I am spokes-cat for the cat food revolution and I need to address you all. Cat lovers, we cats have been victims of the cat food status quo for too long. No more! I bring you news of revolutionary change.

Pet food brand, Vet's Kitchen, has answered my call for a revolutionary cat food with the launch of Ultra-Fresh, a range of dry cat food that's low in carbs and has the highest levels of digestible meat protein.

Cats are 'obligate carnivores', which means we're obliged to eat mainly meat, yet we're given dry food which literally resembles the dog's dinner, full of carbs. How has the poise, style and superior intellect of a natural hunter, such as I, been confused with those bouncing, slobbery, over-eager creatures? Dogs eat almost any morsels and can make do.

To be at my finest, my metabolism requires a diet mainly comprised of high quality meat protein. Up and down the country, my fellow cats and I are being fed biologically inappropriate diets, containing protein sourced from who-knows-where and other ingredients I can't bring myself to think about.

Vet's Kitchen's Ultra-Fresh is a new dry cat food that's made with ultra-high levels of freshly prepared meat, providing the highest levels of digestible, single-source protein and nutrients of any dry cat food. It also doesn't contain unnecessary bulkers, chemicals, carbs or minerals. At last, there's a dry cat food that's been aligned to our bodies' real physiological needs!

They tell me Ultra-Fresh is prepared using a patented, slow-cooking process, which preserves

nutrients, while ensuring optimum digestibility and healthy deliciousness. Feeding us Ultra-Fresh will restore our metabolism and help us regain our naturally-slim, feline athleticism. No longer shall I bear the shame of a sagging midriff.

Jenny, is one of the clever recipe formulators at Vet's Kitchen and she said this to me: "When you analyse a cat's natural diet it contains around 60% protein – about what you'd find in a mouse. Why is it then that the protein content of nearly all cat food is about 30%, much of which is from inappropriate vegetable sources?"

Jenny, she said more: "Ultra-Fresh has the highest level of digestible meat protein of all the cat food we've seen for sale in the UK. It's also rich in naturally active ingredients, such as natural diuretics, dandelion and parsley, antioxidants and omegas."

She makes good points, yes?"

Packed in practical stand-up re-sealable bags for portion control and long-lasting freshness, the first variety is the Grain-Free Ultra-Fresh 80% Chicken:

- 110g (2 days complete): SRP £1.39
- 385g (1 week complete): SRP £3.99
- 770g (2 weeks complete food) SRP £6.79

"Ultra-Fresh cat food can make cats everywhere shine with health, spring higher, stay fitter and look even more naturally attractive, just like me, every day of my life. The Revolution against the indigestible, pointless and inappropriate cat food ingredients has started! Take a fresh look at what you're feeding, as your cat needs you!" 🐾

• Vet's Kitchen was founded in 2010 and the Wiltshire-based company is a fast-growing independent British pet food brand with a reputation for creating innovative, trusted Advanced Nutrition for pets using high quality British sourced ingredients. It is the only British pet food brand to share its HQ with its own in-house veterinary practice. Vet's Kitchen draws on the team's everyday first-hand experience and combines this with latest research and technology to improve and develop new recipes. Their dry food, supplement sauces and treats for dogs and cats contain only natural ingredients and no 'artificial nasties' and are available nationwide from supermarkets, independents and through their online shop.

Get social with Vet's Kitchen:
VetsKitchen.co.uk | Facebook | Twitter



TAMING THE TIGER

Spending a weekend with a feisty, albeit poorly, Bengal had his veterinary nurse entering the ward in trepidation

By Clare Wells



My footsteps slowed as I approached the closed door of the cattery ward, my breathing and heart rate quickened and I felt the hairs on the back of my neck stiffen.

It was the start of my weekend nursing duty and I was here early, before the other Saturday staff, with the sole intention of treating, medicating and cleaning out Shiva, the one and only feline in-patient that weekend - a Bengal suffering with pancreatitis.

He had been admitted two nights earlier, put onto a drip and given his first round of injections and tablets. That process had involved two veterinary professionals, both of whom had received significant scratch injuries for their trouble.

This morning I was on my own and not in the least bit confident in my solo Bengal handling abilities. I was praying his drip was still running in satisfactorily

and that he was eating so that he would take his tablets in his food without me having to pop them into his mouth.

I cautiously opened the door and quietly crossed the floor towards his recovery suite, as Shiva's kennel had become known. All I saw was an ear poking out from under one end of his blanket and his bottom sticking out of the other.

All the rest of him was completely submerged in a brightly coloured fleecy blanket featuring, of all things, a cocker spaniel. No wonder Shiva was sulking!

The drip tubing travelled from drip bag to blanket and at this stage it wasn't entirely clear whereabouts his front leg, the insertion point

of the catheter, was in relation to the rest of him. I looked for signs of life before opening the kennel door; the blanket was moving up and down, so he was breathing and the drip was dripping. Two good first signs.

I quietly opened the door and very gently lifted one corner of his bedding. This intervention, albeit

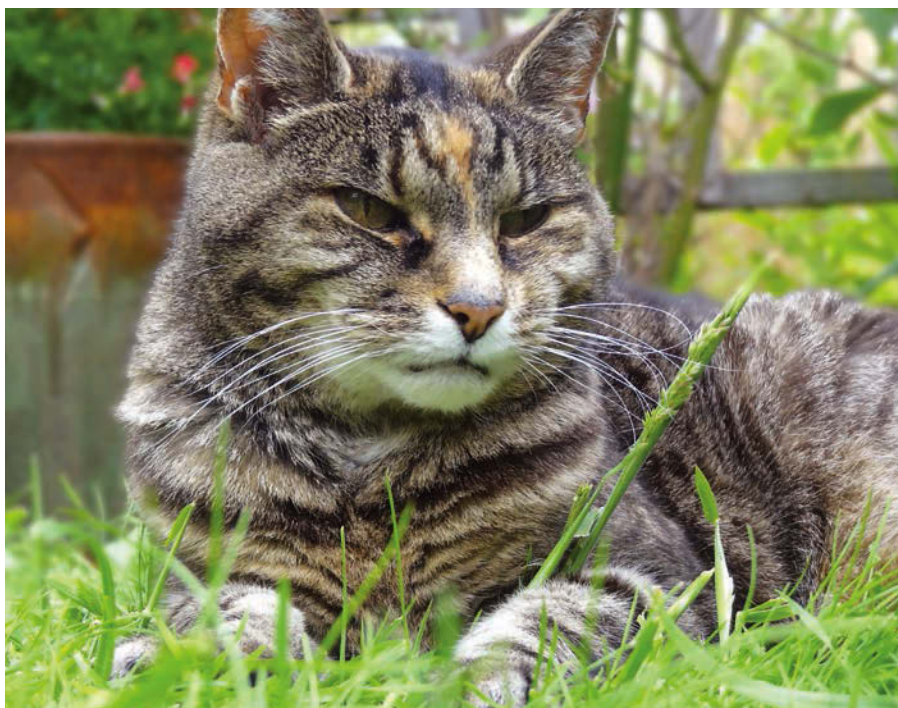
well meant, was greeted with a hiss. Not a good start. Thankfully his food bowl from last night was empty so he was eating, however I still needed to check the leg the drip was going into. This meant lifting him into a standing position

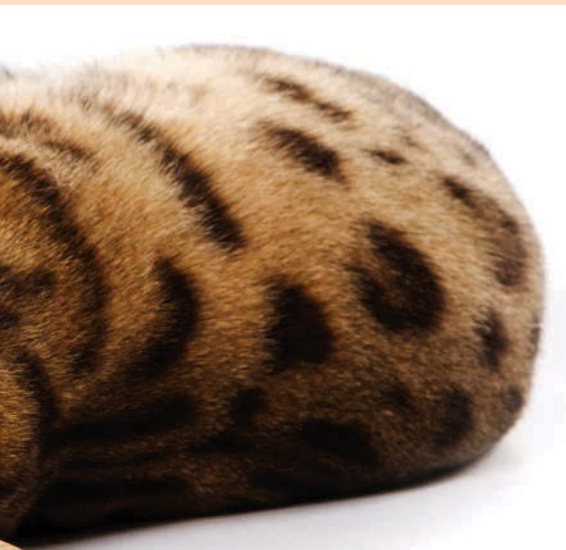
There are times when you've just got to shut your eyes, metaphorically speaking, and go for it and this was one of those times.

and feeling his leg from top to bottom for pockets of fluid which would indicate his catheter had become dislodged from his leg vein.

I carefully placed a towel over him and gently eased him into a standing position. His leg was fine although the twitching tip of his tail suggested that perhaps he was a little less than fine with this unexpectedly early morning intervention. I heard a soft growl and decided this may be a good time to place him on top of his blanket to allow for maximum nurse/patient visualisation, shut the kennel door and back off. So I did.

But then an extraordinary thing happened. He started to rub his cheeks against the bars of his door and pace up and down purring all the while. I watched his drip tubing start to get a little tangled in his blanket as he walked to and fro until the available length became





so short it started to pull on his leg. He flicked and shook his leg with irritation a number of times as it became more uncomfortable. The purring stopped. Encouraged by the earlier display of affection I opened the door and tried to pull the blanket free, being aware of his head end at all times. There are times when you've just got to shut your eyes, metaphorically speaking, and go for it and this was one of those times.

Amazingly he let me free the drip without any interruption to his vital fluid supply. I took this opportunity to try a tentative ear tickle. He responded with more face rubbing and purring. He even bunted my forehead with his and started to paddle his feet. I was amazed. Could this strikingly beautiful cat, albeit with a fearsome reputation, really be mellowing or was he just feeling better?

By the end of my weekend Shiva and I were firm pals. He greeted me each visit with a miaow and a purr and let me stroke him. In fact he got cross if I stopped. By the Monday he was better and it was time for him to be discharged. He was loose in the cattery as I cleaned out his kennel and got his homeward bound carrier ready.

He rubbed himself around my legs and happily let me return him to his carrier, although as I locked the last catch I heard a soft growl. Just a little reminder if I needed it, that Shiva was still the boss, still one step closer to his wild ancestry than the average moggy, and if I was ever stupid enough to entertain any thoughts of putting him through the humiliation of taking his temperature, I could think again! 🐾

• Clare Wells is a veterinary nurse who lives with her own old lady, Mo



PAWPOST

Lots of love and tlc is worth all the effort

I'm writing into you regarding my little cat, Max. His mum, Ruby became an unwanted Siamese cross because she fell pregnant. I took Ruby on and a few weeks later she gave birth to seven kittens.

Max was the runt of the litter and could fit in the palm of my hand. As they all grew older, Max fell behind on size and in his ability to walk. Initial thoughts were that he was just a slow developer.

However, when he didn't improve, I brought him to work (I work at a vets) but there was nothing really significant on the X-rays. I started physio with him in the hope that he would strengthen the little muscle there was in his back legs.

Months went on, and his gait had only very slightly improved. At this point, everyone knew he was never going to walk correctly. During these months, when Max had been weaned onto solid food, we noticed that he was regurgitating every-day and was not gaining any weight or growing in size. Another X-ray was taken, which is when persistent right aortic arch (PRAA) was discovered, a condition where his oesophagus was being constricted and very little food was going to his stomach.

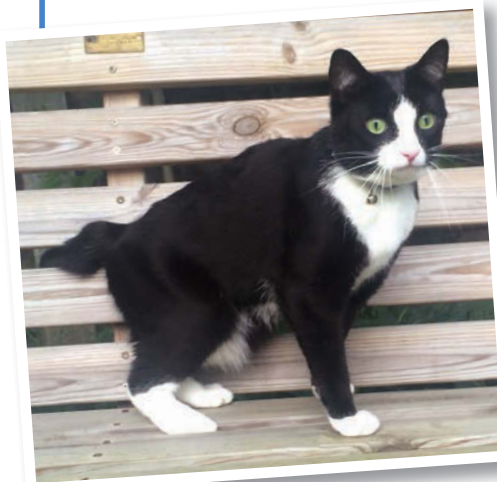
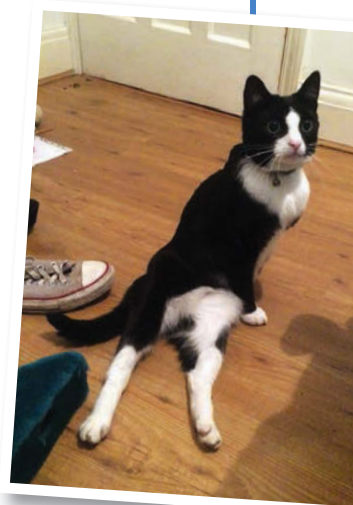
At seven months old, he was booked in for corrective surgery of this PRAA as he was at high risk of developing aspiration pneumonia. It's approximately 18 months after the corrective surgery and he can now enjoy food without regurgitating. However, being diagnosed with spinal dysraphism, which was causing him to bunny hop with his back legs and drag them when he's tired or feeling lazy, has made us realise this is a problem he will have to live with.

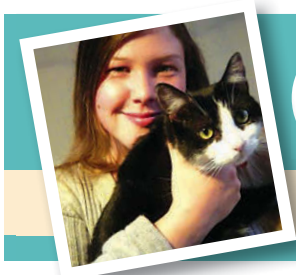
Fortunately, Max is a fighter and has adapted to his deformity extremely well. Throughout kitten hood, he suffered with constipation and vomiting and was unable to behave like a normal kitten. Now, he and anyone that knows Max, wouldn't know any different. He's two years old this month (August 20th).

Max lives in Essex, UK, and has his own Facebook page (search: maximus prime). I absolutely love sharing Max's story and if you are willing to do so, then be my guest.

After having Max and having to bottle feed him and work with him for months, I have learned that every animal deserves a chance because it's amazing what they can cope with.

Tilly





ON THE EDGE

WITH KATY EDGE



My boyfriend and I both have Weetabix for breakfast. We don't have it the same way, though. Phil has his with a bit of milk and covered in sugar; I have mine positively drowned in milk, heated in the microwave for two minutes with no sugar. 'Why is this something I need to know', you ask? Well, pioneering research – conducted in entirely unbiased conditions on our kitchen floor – has shown that one out of three cats (Charlie) likes to lick Phil-style Weetabix out of the bowl ... one out of three cats (Widget) prefers Weetabix à la Katy ... and one out of three cats (Happee) is quite satisfied with kibble, thank you very much.

The implications for the study of feline nutrition are astounding. Do all ginger cats like their breakfast warmed up and saturated in milk (lactose optional)? Or is it a longhair/shorthair thing? An eye colour thing? A male/female cat thing? Are we going to have to start buying cat food that is preferred specifically by green-eyed medium-hair tuxedo cats with a spot on their nose and slightly wonky tail?

Actually, I don't think it's anything

There's a very (well, ok...kind of) scientific survey being carried out as to the preferred feeding habits of three hungry felines

to do with any of those things. I think it's because Charlie follows Phil around like a lost lamb...one with big blue eyes, a bottlebrush tail and a miaow like a foghorn. While Widget, for some reason best known to him, is usually to be found in the same room as me. But the weird thing is this: both Charlie and Widget are obsessed with food. Charlie in particular. I genuinely think Charlie would jump off a cliff if there was some suggestion that a bowl of food had been seen at the bottom at some point in the last year. But Charlie won't touch my Weetabix.

He's had plenty of opportunities – as has Happee. When I finish my breakfast, I pop the bowl on the counter (OK, the floor) so it is wholly possible (OK, inevitable) that a cat will encounter it at some point. Widget knows this well, so he'll perch on the bookshelf opposite the kitchen door waiting for his

cue. As soon as he hears the clink of my spoon scraping the bottom of the bowl, he's got his paws up at the kitchen door, with Charlie (who doesn't like to be left out) right behind him. Widget miaow-hows in a most aggrieved way if I ever forget and wash up the bowl without offering it to him first.

But poor Charlie, having lunged into the kitchen with the urgency of a starving animal, always looks slightly put out when he realises it's only lukewarm Weetabix I'm offering. AGAIN. Bear in mind that this is the cat who tore open a bag of hay pellets meant for chinchillas and ate several of them before realising they weren't food. The cat who will run to you from any corner of the house if you call his name, because we once gave him a treat for doing this (but we haven't for months). The cat who thinks dog vomit is an appetising lunch.

I suppose I could be offended but it's actually a massive compliment for Phil. And compliments in feline-ruled households, as we all know, are few and far between. 🐾



Healthy teeth make happy cats

Just like humans, cats need to have regular oral examinations to check for plaque build-up and gum disease. By keeping an eye on things, you can keep your cat's teeth in tip-top condition.

Checking your cat's teeth and gums weekly is the best way to prevent problems. If you notice any signs of bleeding or inflamed gums, it might be time to make an appointment for a dental check-up. Any nasty 'bad breath' smells may also be a sign of underlying gum disease.

The good news is, there are some simple steps you can take to improve your cat's oral hygiene. There are several brands of treats on the market that are designed to reduce plaque. And, if your cat will not tolerate tooth-brushing, there are oral hygiene gels, dental treats, and dry food diets that can help.

Tesco Bank Pet Insurance Premier cover includes dental cover as standard. As long as your pet has an annual dental examination, and any treatment required in that check-up is carried out, your policy

will cover the cost of any work that is required as a result of the check-up. The new Premier cover is designed to offer long-term peace of mind with the highest level of vet fee cover available from Tesco Bank Pet Insurance, with an annually re-instated vet fee limit of up to £10,000 when you renew your policy each year. It's Defaqto 5 Star rated, too. Monetary limits, excesses and exclusions apply – for full details please refer to the policy documents online. To find out more, visit tescobank.com/pet

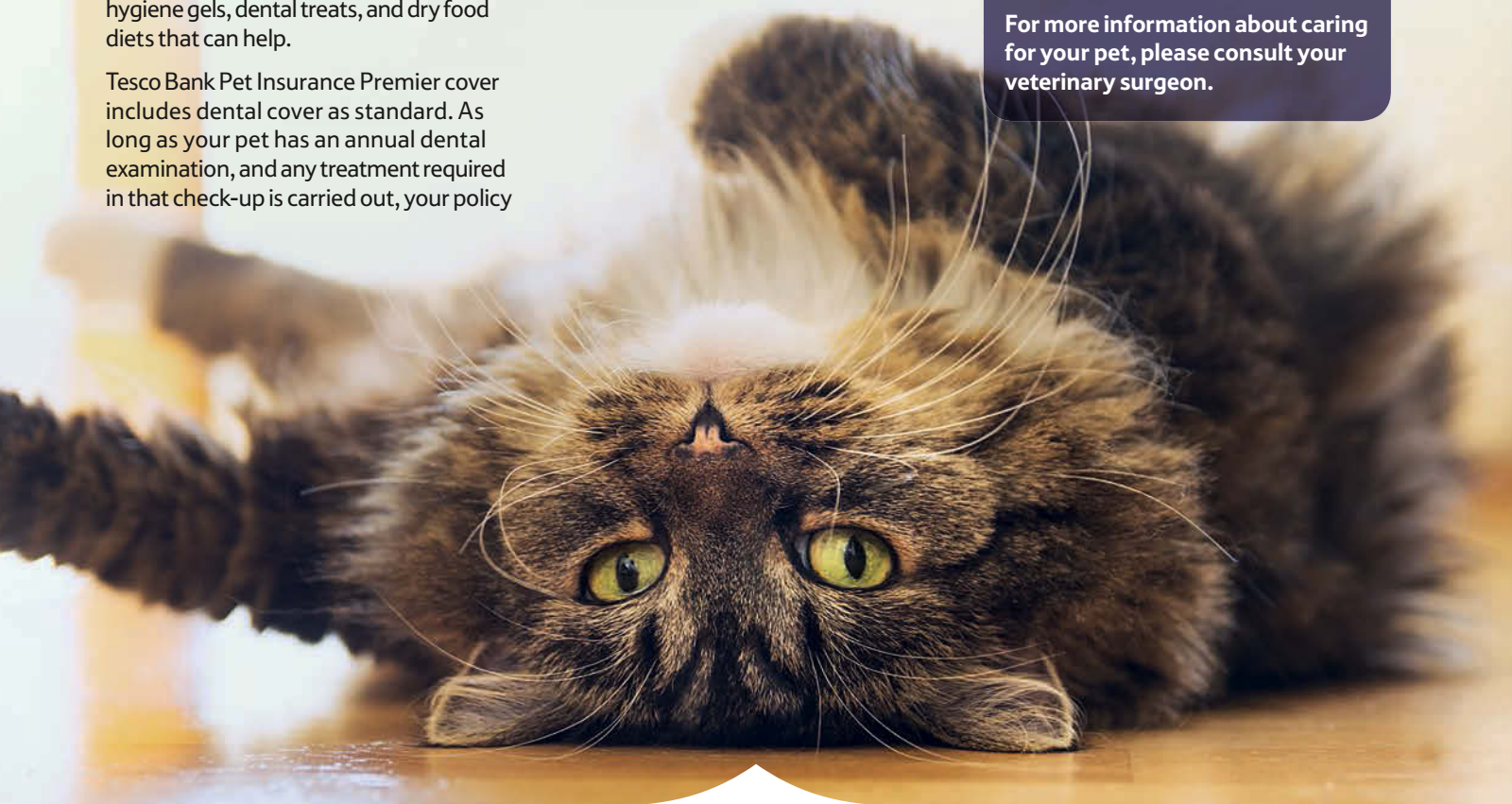


Advice from the experts

A guide to feline dental care from Whiskas®

Good oral health starts with good nutrition. It's vital to feed your cat the correct diet for their life-stage to ensure they get the best nutrition for the healthy development and maintenance of bones, teeth and gums. Just like human teeth, your cat's teeth need daily home dental care and regular professional cleaning to prevent serious oral disease. The best way to care for your cat's teeth is to brush them daily, but we all know this can be difficult! The texture of some feeds can actually have a 'brushing' effect, which could be helpful if your cat refuses to have her teeth brushed.

For more information about caring for your pet, please consult your veterinary surgeon.



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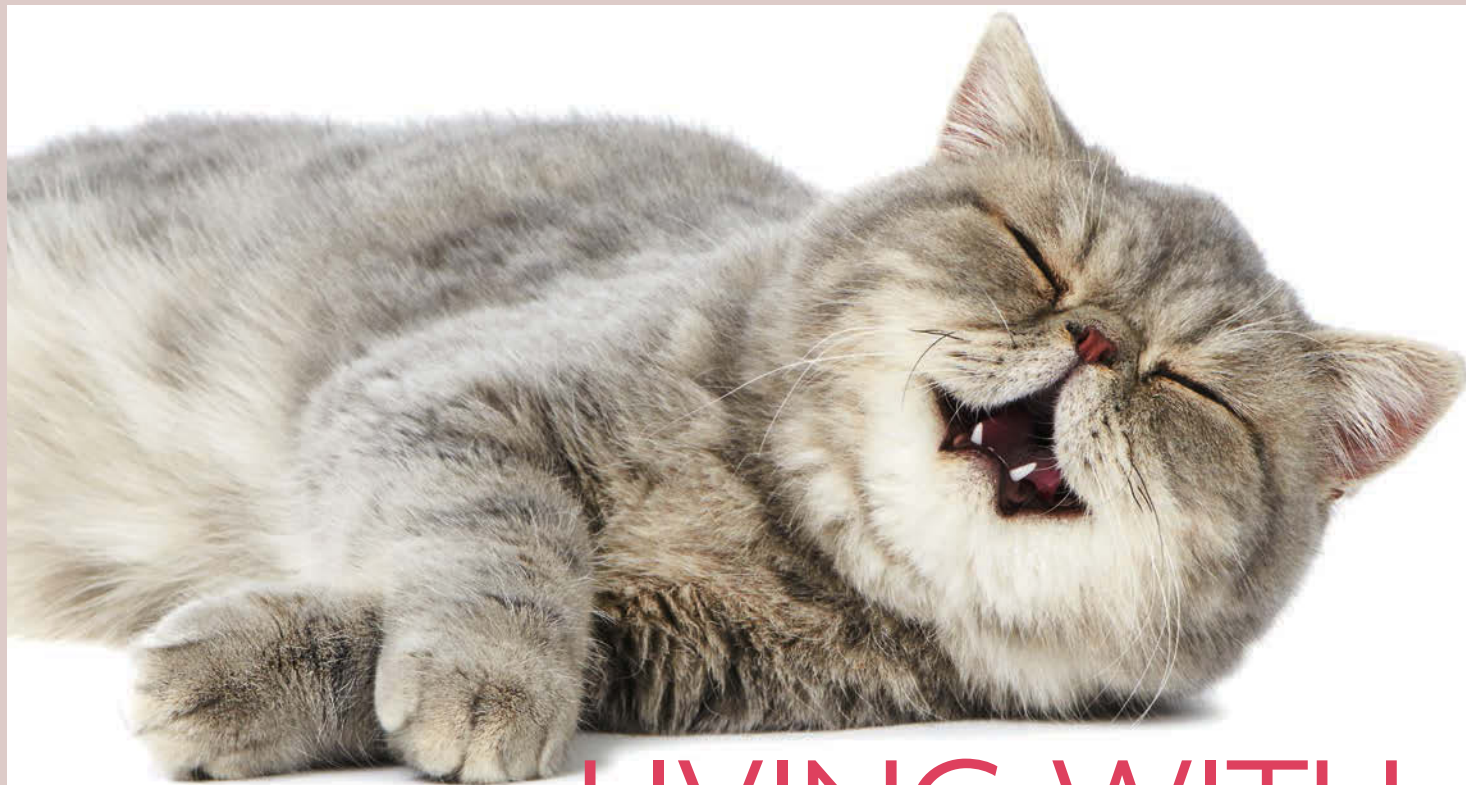
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LIVING WITH FELINE ARTHRITIS

Many of our beloved cats will suffer the pain of arthritis but things can be done at home to make life more comfortable



Between half and three quarters of all elderly cats (aged 12 or over) will show signs of arthritis to some degree but younger cats can also be affected. Any mature cat (aged seven or over) should be checked for signs of the disease if they appear to have any of the symptoms (see table).

When the condition is severe, osteoarthritis can make normal life very uncomfortable for your feline friend. Here is a brief explanation of what it is, why it happens and how we can help our pets cope with the disease.

What is arthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a condition affecting an animal's joints in much the same way as it does with humans. The cartilage that cushions the joints starts to break down and wears away, meaning that the bones rub against each other, leading to discomfort and inflammation around the

joint that can result in reduced mobility.

Why does it occur?

Feline arthritis is believed to happen as a result of general wear and tear on the joints, rather than as a result of an obvious condition such as an auto-immune disease which often leads to rheumatoid arthritis in humans. However, the exact causes of feline arthritis are unclear.

Other than old age, if a cat suffers an injury as a result of a road accident, for example, a fracture or dislocation can result in a change to a cat's movement, leading to wear on the joint, especially if it is slightly misaligned as a result of the injury.

Obesity

While being overweight will not cause arthritis, it can be a contributory factor as it puts additional strain on the joints which could increase the chances

Some breeds seem to be more susceptible to arthritis:

- Maine Coon, Persian and Siamese all have a predisposition towards a condition called hip dysplasia, where the hip joint develops abnormally
- Abyssinian and Devon Rex are prone to knee cap dislocation
- Scottish Folds can have an abnormality of cartilage that seems to lead to arthritis affecting several joints

of arthritis developing or exacerbate any symptoms already present.

Diagnosis and treatment

If you suspect your pet may have arthritis you should ask for a veterinary examination. A vet can usually feel any abnormalities around the joints and be fairly sure it is arthritis but some of the

symptoms, such as apparent lameness, can also be associated with other conditions and diseases. If your vet suspects there could be another underlying cause of the cat's symptoms, he may do an ultrasound, blood test or x-ray to confirm his diagnosis.

There are various medications available to treat feline arthritis, mainly NSAIDs (Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs). These can be very effective in controlling inflammation and pain but should only be used under veterinary advice and supervision. As with all drugs, there may be side effects and your vet will be able to calculate the lowest effective dose for your pet as opposed to another cat.

Managing arthritis

Cats with arthritis may spend a larger amount of their day lying down or sleeping and may become increasingly reluctant to explore an outdoor environment. They may also lose interest in playing, with you or other animals, preferring to spend more time alone.

There are several ways in which you can make changes around your home to enable your cat to be more comfortable:

Warmth: Cats with arthritis will naturally head for a warm spot to lie in. Soft, comfortable beds placed in a quiet, draft-free location - close to a sunny window or a radiator - will offer warmth. Heated pads and cat beds may also help, particularly during colder months.

An 'igloo' style bed can make a cat feel more cosy and secure.

Mobility: If your cat has always enjoyed a high position such as a windowsill or shelf, providing a ramp or steps (boxes, books, etc can be used) to aid access to this spot will be very welcome.

The cat may also need a step on either side of the cat flap. Make sure that this is very easy to open too so that the cat doesn't have to use too much force to push through.

Food and water: Make sure that food and water bowls are always easy to get to. If your cat spends time upstairs, place food and water in an appropriate place up there too so that he doesn't have to keep going up and down stairs, which may cause him pain.

Litter trays: Provide several litter trays around the house, upstairs and down,



and make sure they have a low side so that your cat can climb in easily. Trying to get over a high-sided tray can cause discomfort and may lead to your cat defecating outside of his tray.

Exercise: While a cat with arthritis will find exercise uncomfortable, it is important that their joints are kept mobile as much as possible. Encouraging play time, with toys or activity feeders, will not only aid weight loss but will also help to keep stiff joints warm.

Grooming: As it may be difficult for an arthritic cat to groom itself efficiently, you should try to spend time grooming and cleaning your pet regularly. If they aren't getting active outdoors, you may need to clip their claws regularly too to prevent them becoming overgrown.

If your pet will allow it, gentle massage can help stiff joints and sore muscles. Ask for advice at your veterinary surgery or pet grooming centre.

Diet and supplements: Being overweight will increase the pain and discomfort associated with arthritis and should be avoided. If your cat is overweight, your vet will recommend carefully controlled weight loss, possibly by using a special diet to help achieve this safely and effectively.

Several diets and dietary supplements are available for cats with arthritis. They usually contain an increased level of fish oils (which the cats find very palatable and have been proven to reduce inflammation) and glucosamine and/or chondroitin that are responsible for maintaining and repairing the cartilage in the joint. These diets and dietary supplements are generally very safe to use when recommended by your vet but how effective the supplements are is still unproven. They may certainly be worth a try in the

early stages of arthritis or as a complementary to other drugs.

Be aware that the quality of the different supplements available on the market may vary enormously as there is very little regulation governing their manufacture. Supplements also have to be given long term and on a daily basis, usually in capsule or powder form, which many cat owners find challenging.

Never give human forms of medication or supplements to a cat.

So feline arthritis is extremely common, particularly in later years. Observe your cat and look out for signs that they are beginning to find 'every day' activities difficult. Ask your vet to check them if you think they may be in some discomfort - cats are very good at suffering in silence and won't make it obvious that they are in pain. With some changes to their lifestyle and diet, you can help them deal with arthritis - even if they are taking life at a slower pace. 🐾

What to look for

- stiffness when getting up after resting or sleeping
- obvious pain when walking an altered or awkward way of walking (gait)
- difficulty grooming - scruffy or matted coat
- a reluctance to jump
- difficulty going up or down stairs
- a reluctance or difficulty in using the cat flap and/or litter tray
- personality changes: a cat may become more nervous, depressed and resist being touched or may become aggressive
- a reluctance to interact with people or other animals, spending more time alone

Gap year provider says no to animal cruelty

There is concern that young people are being unwittingly involved in projects abroad that have very little concern for animal welfare

Following the death of the now infamous Cecil the Lion recently, one of the world's leading gap year and voluntary placement providers, Projects Abroad, has publicly committed to do more to ensure that its international projects are in no way connected to animal cruelty in any form.

The decision follows lengthy discussions with international animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS, which has warned that thousands of people in the UK may be unwittingly working on projects linked to the canned hunting industry, under the guise of 'conservation projects, which claim to benefit wildlife.

The illegal killing of beloved Zimbabwean lion Cecil, who was lured from a protected area and shot by a US hunter, has highlighted the need for stricter

controls by voluntary placement groups such as Projects Abroad to ensure they are not contributing to animal cruelty in any way.

The organisation warns that although the number of 'trophies' from such hunting practices entering the UK is very small*, many people from the UK are at risk of contributing to this cruel and unnecessary practice without realising, through voluntary placements and other tourist activities, such as petting of cubs and photo opportunities with captive big cats.

Photos on the websites of some providers show volunteers feeding, holding and cuddling lion and tiger cubs. While these pictures may look cute, FOUR PAWS warns that the close proximity to big cats that this sort of project offers poses numerous animal welfare

concerns, offers no benefit to the conservation of wild populations and may be likely to be linked to the canned hunting industry.

Kieran Harkin, Head of Programmes at FOUR PAWS UK, commented: "In South Africa, the captive lion population considerably exceeds the wild population. Most of these lions are bred as part of the lucrative canned hunting industry but the breeding of lions for hunting in South Africa also attracts thousands of volunteers each year, often under the false impression that they are taking part in conservation projects by working at these lion breeding facilities.

"Furthermore, thousands more tourists pay to enter these facilities to pet and play with lion cubs.

These unscrupulous facilities present huge animal welfare concerns as the lion cubs are taken away from their mothers on the day they are born, which causes huge distress to both mother and cubs. They are then subjected to daily interactions with tourists and when they are too old to be handled, they are often sold on to the canned hunting industry."

After being contacted by FOUR PAWS, Projects Abroad agreed to publicly commit to a more rigorous vetting process and to ensure that research is undertaken to ensure that all of the placements it offers are free of any connection to animal cruelty.

Commenting on the decision, Greg Thomson, Operations Director at Projects Abroad,



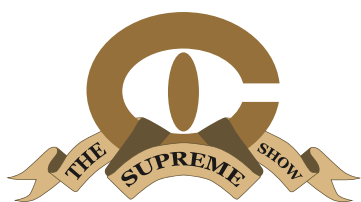
said: "Projects Abroad sends over 2000 volunteers each year to participate on conservation projects and we take great responsibility in ensuring the best possible treatments of animals on our placements. Conserving animals is at the forefront of our conservation objectives and we are proud to publicly pledge that we will ensure our conservation projects involve no practices which negatively impact animals. We urge all other gap year and volunteer organisations to do the same."

Kieran Harkin said the charity welcomed the decision by Projects Abroad, stating: "We are delighted that one of the biggest and best voluntary project providers in the world has taken this important step. It is not just a case of the animal cruelty involved, but the fact that many consumers are unwittingly taking part, while thinking that they are doing something positive for the animals. Many of these volunteers would be shocked and saddened if they knew the truth."

For more information, and to join FOUR PAWS' canned hunting petition, please visit: www.cannedhunting.com 🐾

*figures from CITES suggesting there were only around 32 such imports between 2010 and 2015.





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Nutritional know-how for the ageing cat

A healthy and nutritious diet can help control the affects of arthritis and many other conditions that may affl t your cat in their senior years

Just like humans, cats' requirements change as they grow older and top-notch nutrition becomes increasingly important. During their vintage years, cats may encounter more health challenges, reduce their physical activity and go through progressive bodily changes, all of which impact on their lifestyle and dietary needs. Owners should make sure they are clued up on senior-specific health hints and vital feline food facts to ensure their furry friend gets the best out of their mature years.

So, when does a cat become a senior

citizen? There's certainly no entitlement to a bus pass or concessionary tickets to the cinema to mark the occasion.

Although the ageing process is a gradual one and unique to each individual, a cat is often thought of as a 'mature' adult cat once reaching seven years of age and a 'senior' from 11 years onwards. It is important for owners to understand the ageing process and the reasons behind their cat's changing needs to make sure they can match their cat's requirements.

The ups and downs of growing older

As cats age, their metabolism slows

down and they tend to take life slightly easier, becoming less active. This means that older cats need fewer calories to maintain a healthy body weight. Weight problems are relatively common in the more senior cat which can be due to feeding a diet which is too calorie-rich, feeding too much or due to the cat spending more time on the sofa. Excess weight can contribute to or worsen certain medical conditions common to the older cat, such as heart and respiratory disease as well as skin, urinary and joint problems. Reducing food quantity or gradually changing to a lower-calorie food, along

with increased exercise, may help cut down those cat kilos.

Hill's™ Pet Nutrition provides a full range of diets specifically formulated to meet the nutritional needs of both mature and senior cats, helping them maintain their ideal weight. For cats that really need to drop the pounds, Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Adult Mature 7+ also comes in a 'light' version, containing fewer calories, less fat and higher fibre to help keep felines full between meals. Neutered cats are over three times more likely to become overweight and suffer with urinary problems, which is why Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Mature Adult 7+ NeuteredCat diet is designed with a unique weight management formula to help cats burn fat and build muscle while satisfying the specific needs of the mature, neutered cat.

Weight loss in older cats can also be a serious problem and may be a sign of an underlying health issue, such as hyperthyroidism, heart disease, diabetes or kidney disease, especially if the cat still appears to have a good appetite. A decreased appetite can occur because of a reduction in taste or smell, which means that the cat may not enjoy eating as much. The range of highly palatable textures and flavours of the Hill's™ mature and senior cat diets are loved by cats, so owners can offer even the fussiest of felines a variety they will adore. After all, it is the spice of life.

Dental disease can also cause weight loss as affected cats may find eating uncomfortable. Owners should have their cat's teeth checked regularly by their vet and seek advice if they are worried about weight issues or eating habits. The vet is the best person to help devise a diet plan to keep the older cat satisfied, strong and in good shape.

Diet and disease

Older cats may be more prone to a number of health problems but providing optimum nutrition can often go some way to guarding against certain diseases. Kidney disease is common in older cats, which is why Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Mature Adult Active Longevity contains a precise balance of energy, protein and phosphorous, which can reduce kidney stress in just 30 days*.



Arthritis, heart disease and urinary disease are also conditions common in older cats, all of which can benefit from tailored nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Senior 11+ Healthy Ageing is formulated with controlled levels of sodium and other minerals to support a healthy heart and other vital organs in senior cats, as well as omega-6 fatty acids and vitamin E to improve skin and coat in just 30 days.*

Owners who are concerned about these or any other health issues in their cat should seek advice from their vet.

*compared to previously fed grocery foods.

Wet or dry food – which is best?

There is no simple answer to this common conundrum, as there are pros and cons to each. Dry food can be better for maintaining healthy teeth, the optimum weight and is often more convenient to feed. However, wet food can be easier to chew for cats with dental problems, more appealing to cats with meagre appetites and good for maintaining hydration. The bottom line is that it completely depends on the cat. The most important thing is that the diet meets the cat's nutritional requirements, helps them to maintain a good weight and that they enjoy it! Hill's™ mature and senior diet ranges are available in both wet and dry formulations, giving owners the option of delivering the ultimate nutrition in the way that suits their cat best.

Don't mix and match

Senior specific complete diets such as Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Senior 11+ Healthy Ageing contain precise formulations of everything your older cat needs to thrive, so it is not recommended that dry foods be topped up or mixed with other wet foods of different brands. This can dilute the positive effect of the food, cause weight gain or expose your cat to higher levels of certain minerals. Owners wishing to offer their cat a more varied diet should chat to their vet about combining dry diet with a wet food such as Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Senior 11+ Healthy Ageing wet food,



which comes in a range of tempting flavours such as turkey, ocean fish and beef.

Defending body and mind

Although the increasing years are inevitable, choosing the right food for your cat can make a huge difference. Some owners report decreased mental vitality and reduced mobility as their cat ages but diets such as Hill's™ Science

Plan™ Feline Senior 11+ Healthy Ageing can provide precisely balanced, easy-to-digest nutrition to help keep felines agile, more alert and interactive.

Maintaining the strength of the ageing immune system is also a priority and by providing the right levels of antioxidants and fish oils in the diet, owners can keep cats well equipped to fend off foreign invaders. The unique blend of clinically proven antioxidants in Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Mature Adult Active Longevity, along with a blend of amino acids and omega fatty acids, boosts the senior cat's immunity and helps defend brain and body.

Making sure the older feline feels fabulous for longer

As well as choosing a first class diet to meet nutritional needs, there are some top tips that can help ensure the more mature cat stays feeling marvellous.

Feeding little and often can make digestion easier for older cats, so owners might consider feeding several small meals rather than larger meals. If changing to a new food, the transition should be gradual to avoid upset tummies. Plenty of water should be freely available at all times and along with food, must always be accessible, especially to arthritic cats which can't move around as easily.

Owners should schedule a veterinary check-up at least twice a year and weigh their cat every month, which can be done at their local vet practice or even on a set of home scales. By observing their cat on a daily basis for unusual behaviour and signs of ill health, owners can stay ahead of the game when it comes to keeping their senior feline happy and healthy.

Lastly, exercise and environmental stimulation are also vital to keeping the older cat's mind and body on top-form. These are often best achieved through plenty of bonding time, fun feline interaction and some good, old-fashioned tender loving care! 🐾



Vets still worried over many unplanned litters

Strong case for neutering as young as four months says the BVA, after survey of national vets

Ninety-three per cent vets are concerned about cats having unplanned litters, figures released from the British Veterinary Association show.

Their survey also found that 95 per cent of vets always recommend that owners have their kittens neutered, with the rest recommending it sometimes.

Every year organisations such as the Cats Protection rehome over 140,000 stray, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens. Cats are able to breed from four months old, something many pet owners are not aware of. Consequently many owners wait too long to have their cat neutered, resulting in unwanted litters.

Neutering is the only effective way to reduce the number of unwanted cats in the UK. It also prevents cats from suffering medical issues linked to breeding, such as transmission and spread of infections, and behavioural issues that may arise from poor socialisation.

The BVA survey also showed that two thirds of vets advise neutering kittens when they are five months old or younger. Female vets and those vets who had graduated since 2000 were significantly more likely than average to recommend neutering at four months.

John Blackwell, BVA President, said: "Cats and kittens can make great pets. However, I am saddened by the amount of unplanned litters I see on a regular basis during work. Organisations work hard to try and rehome all the unwanted cats that come through their doors, but there is only so much they can do.

"We need owners to be more aware of the young age their kitten can become pregnant from and to work with their vet to ensure their pet is neutered on time. The operation is relatively low cost. There are also a lot of organisations that will help with the cost of neutering if owners are unable to afford it.



"For social, health and population control reasons, there is a strong case for neutering earlier and moving away from the more 'traditional' age of six months. Our survey reflects how attitudes are changing in the profession."

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) recommends that cats can be neutered from 16 weeks. Veterinary advice should always be sought regarding the risks and benefits in individual cases. 🐾

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GOING UP IN THE WORLD



Loki relaxing on windowsill.

Three-dimensional living is essential for your cat, especially if they live indoors, enabling them to feel safe and in control

By Kim Houston BSc (Hons), Dip (AS) CABP, CCAB
PHOTOS: MATH OSKINS (ANDH ISC ATS, THEO & LOKI) F ROM F URLINED

Whether your cat is an indoor cat or has access to the great outdoors, climbing is an essential behaviour and an important aspect of your cat's daily life. Cats are natural born climbers with a need to live in a three-dimensional world, and therefore must be able to access high places. For outdoor cats, the ability to climb to elevated locations is essential for survival as this allows them to escape potential predators, such as dogs and foxes. Not only does it allow them to feel safe and secure, but it also gives them the opportunity to survey their territory and engage in opportunistic hunting.

However, vertical spaces are equally as important to indoor cats, and will allow your cat to watch over their environment from a place of safety. Elevated locations provide escape routes during challenging times, such as over-exuberant children in the home, tension in a multi-cat household, a buoyant puppy or scary noises such as the vacuum cleaner. High up surfaces also provide both mental and physical stimulation; it helps the cat to perfect balance and will work on developing muscles and flexibility. Above all else it's 'fun' and will keep cats entertained.

Restrictions imposed by modern day living

Modern day living frequently results in houses being designed in a minimalist

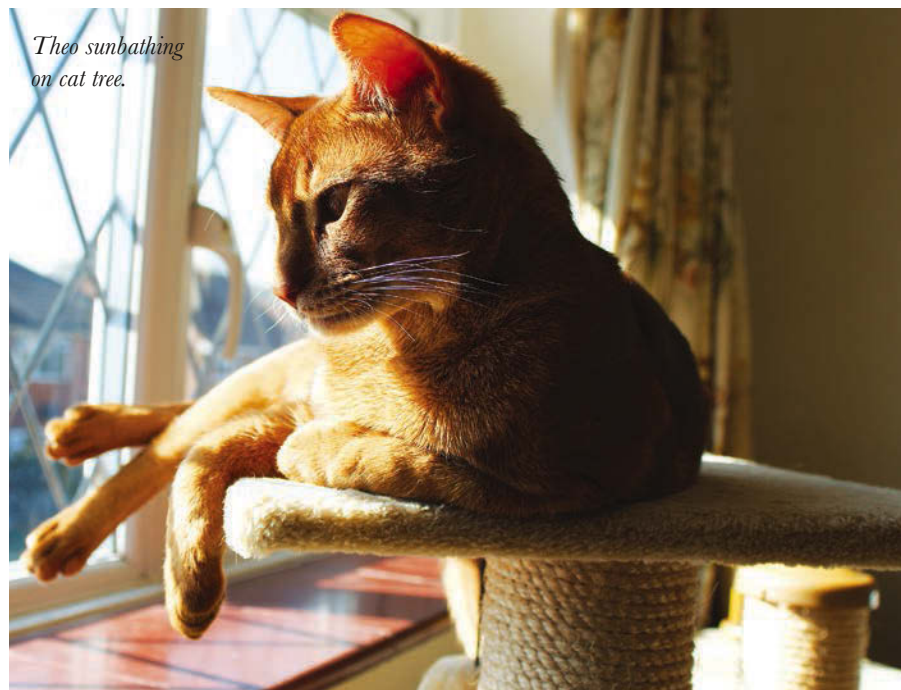
style. From bright and airy loft apartments, to houses that are clutter-free with little in the way of furniture. Whilst this sort of living can be very appealing for us, to cats this often prevents them from displaying their natural behaviours. As human beings, we largely live our lives in a horizontal world, whereas cats need to have vertical space and move about in a three-dimensional world. Unfortunately, many homes are not designed with the cat in mind and are therefore not conducive to the cat's natural behaviour. Large open spaces do not give a cat the climbing opportunities they require, especially if the cat is an indoor only cat.

Providing a cat with vertical spaces in their territory is an essential part of feline life. If you find that your cat is intent on sitting on the mantelpiece, on top of cupboard surfaces or scaling the

designer curtains, then it could well be that you have not provided an appropriate three-dimensional world. In many cases, you may have to make a deliberate effort to provide unrestricted access to resting areas at varying heights that are conducive to your cat's needs. Vertical, three-dimensional, cat living can come in many forms.

Solutions to providing different climbing options

During my consultations as a feline behaviourist, I have helped many cat owners in designing appropriate vertical space for their cats. The newly created spaces provided the cats with high-up vantage points or reduced friction in multi-cat households, whilst at the same time protecting the 'owners' furniture from the wrath of the cat claws!



Theo sunbathing on cat tree.

Quick fixes

There are various options for creating appropriate three-dimensional living space, regardless of budget and the size of the accommodation. Simple adaptations to existing living space, such as providing space on a windowsill, or creating a comfortable area in a bookshelf, are very quick fixes and better still, they are free!

Other simple and cost effective ways of providing a cat with some essential vertical space include putting a bed or a soft blanket in other ready made vertical spaces such as on a wardrobe or table. These vertical spaces are relatively easy to create and are inexpensive; they are also ideal for those cat owners with restricted space. They provide an excellent elevated vantage point for the cat, whilst allowing them to watch the world go by from a warm and comfortable place.

Cat trees

A very easy and popular way of increasing vertical territory for your cat is by providing a cat-climbing tree. There are hundreds of cat trees on the market but you must keep your cat's size and personality in mind when choosing one. For example, if you have a large cat such as a Maine Coon, consider the sizes of the individual perches. Cat trees have the added advantage that they can be moved from room to room, so your cat should hopefully never get bored of the same view.

A multi-perched cat tree is often a very popular choice but they can take up quite a lot of space in the home, so this would need to be taken into account. Not only do these provide lots of different platforms and a great surface for cats to climb up and down, but the posts of the tree often double as scratch posts. Cat trees that have several perches are ideal for multi-cat households because they allow the cats to share a relatively close space without the need for competing for

Multi-perched cat tree.



platforms, thus cutting down on tension and friction within the home. To encourage use of the cat tree, try putting a few of your cats' favourite treats on the platforms at different levels and make sure that the tree is as comfortable as possible.

Cat-friendly wall shelving

Wall-mounted cat shelving is one of the latest innovations in cat furniture. Cat-friendly shelving is an excellent way of providing the cat with some essential three-dimensional space; they are ideal for small spaces and apartments where there is limited floor space to provide a climbing tree. Cat wall shelves can be configured to fit any wall space and will allow the cat to explore and then rest in an elevated position. Again, these are great in multi-cat households or in those homes where the cat is perhaps nervous around small children or the buoyant puppy.

Kitty walkway

For those of you that are more adventurous and are not frightened by a bit of DIY, then perhaps you could try creating an overhead cat playground or cat walkway. There are many companies that have developed modern and innovative ideas that are deemed as the crème de la crème of the three-dimensional feline world. From complex overhead playgrounds, to ramps and rope bridges, all perfectly suited to allow the cat to display natural climbing behaviour and the odd bit of acrobatics!

With a bit of thought and modification you could double the size of your cat's territory and create a more comfortable, cat-friendly, secure and fun home. 🐾

Cat-friendly shelving.



Kim Houston BSc (Hons), Dip (AS)
CABC, CCAB
Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist
www.cat-astrophes.com



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GIFTS FOR THE GODS

There's a rather unusual exhibition for cat lovers at Manchester Museum this autumn that focuses on mummified cats and other animals

The practice of offering gifts to the Gods in ancient civilisations is a well known part of ancient history. As well as weapons, jewellery and other trinkets, important citizens were often buried with animals. Cats, in particular, were revered animals in Ancient Egyptian society.

From 8th October 2015 to 17th April 2016, The Manchester Museum will hold an exhibition revealing the inside history of more than 60 animal mummies. This fascinating exhibition will present and explore ancient Egyptian animal mummies, prepared in their millions as votive offerings to the gods.

'Gifts for the Gods' will explain the background behind this religious practice in the context of life in ancient Egypt and the environment in which the animals lived. It will explore the British fascination with Egypt, the discovery of animal mummies by British excavators, and how the mummies ended up in the UK, as well as taking a look at the history and future of their scientific study in Manchester.

The display will combine mummified specimens such as jackals, crocodiles, cats and birds with cultural artefacts such as stone sculpture and bronze statuettes, alongside 19th Century works of art and never-seen-before archives. The exhibition will open with a reconstruction of the ancient Egyptian landscape which shows Egypt

not as the desert we now imagine but as a country of lush grassland, with taxidermy specimens showing what the animals would have looked like when alive. Egypt's many gods could take animal forms to express their superhuman nature. The exhibition explores how images of animals – pictures, statuettes or mummies – could be used to communicate with the gods. Animal mummies and bronze statuettes are the most common votive offerings – gifts to the gods.

Photographs, archive material and travel journals will show how the animal mummies were excavated and selected by archaeologists and museum experts, including how they were collected and distributed as curios and souvenirs. The study of animal mummies is a relatively new field of research, and more recent excavations are featured, in particular at Saqqara.

A British fascination

A section on the scientific study of animal mummies highlights the importance of The University of Manchester's research in this area, and more broadly, how Britain has contributed to this study. Using wrapped, partially wrapped and completely unwrapped animal mummies from a variety of UK collections, the exhibition will look at the use of imaging (photography, radiography, CT, light microscopy) to learn more about the subject.

Dr Lidija McKnight, Research Associate, the Ancient Egyptian Bio Bank Project, The University of Manchester said: "This exhibition will showcase the role played by the British in the discovery, excavation, collection, curation and scientific research of this understudied subject. The University

of Manchester, with its long history in Egyptian mummy research, is leading the field; helping to shed light on the material remains of this ancient practice and, hopefully, to reveal more about how and why these animal mummies were produced."

The exhibition will open at Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester (8 October 2015-17 April 2016) before being displayed at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow (May-September 2016) and World Museum, Liverpool (October 2016-March 2017). 🐾





TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN

There are so many cat toys online and in pet shops - do our pets really need them and what are the benefits?

All cats have a built in need to hunt prey. Wild cats, big cats, even domestic cats - all are genetically 'wired' to chase prey and go in for the kill. It is how they have always survived. So when we keep our pets indoors, even if only at night or during the winter months, they still need to practice these skills.

Kittens start learning to perfect their hunting skills from a few weeks old and will do this through play with siblings and later, their new owners. The slightest movement will quickly get their attention and have them darting around to find out more. Encouraging such play with a newly homed kitten will not only meet their hunting needs but will also be great exercise and entertainment.

An elderly cat may not be as agile as

he once was but he will still benefit greatly from some regular play time to prevent boredom and also keep stiffening limbs mobile. It is important to provide stimulation and encourage some movement.

This also applies to cats kept indoors all the time. A bored cat can soon become stressed and a lack of exercise means they are prone to putting on too much weight. Stress can become the cause of unwanted behavioural problems which can be time consuming and costly to rectify so making sure your indoor cat has exercise and entertainment is crucial to his wellbeing.

What should I buy?

Toys that move, make a noise or can be pounced on are the most popular, as cats, being naturally inquisitive creatures, will be more likely to investigate

and satisfy their curiosity. Small toys are best - think about their 'live' prey such as mice, voles and small birds, all much smaller than the cat. Do be careful not to use anything so small that it might be swallowed though, as this could lead to injuries and expensive vet's bills.

Look in any pet shop or online pet store and the choice of toys is amazing, from the more traditional style balls with bells, squeezey mice and feathery wands to more elaborate gadgets with whizzing mice, mazes of balls just tantalisingly out of reach and towers to crawl and hide in. There is plenty of choice to suit every budget and every cat, whatever their age.

Peak activity for felines occurs in the early morning and in the evening. Play with your pet before you go to bed so your cat or kitten will be more likely to sleep when you do. Alternatively, put the noisy toys away overnight and leave one or two quieter playthings around when you head for bed.

Build up a good supply and variety of toys but only give your cat a few to play with at any time. Keep rotating the toys, providing a different selection, and he is less likely to become bored.

A quick fix

If you have just acquired your first cat, you don't need to spend a fortune on a large toy collection. It is nice to have some of the great toys that can be purchased but you can supplement them with a few basics. Here are a few ideas for toys that can be easily and cheaply made at home and will be a boost for any toy box.

Hide and seek

Cats love cardboard boxes. They will jump in and out of a single cardboard box for ages, especially if you gently tap on the box while they are inside. Try gluing or taping several different sized boxes together, with peep holes or larger holes cut in them, so the cat can move in and out or play hide and seek.



Jingle bells

Securely tie a few bells to one end of a piece of string or strip of old fabric. Tie the other end to a stick and you have a dangle toy that your cat will want to try to hit with his paws whenever the bells jingle.

Bags of fun

Leave a large paper bag on the floor that your cat can shred to pieces but first cut off any handles that your cat may get its head into and become stuck and never use plastic bags.

Down the tube

A great game can be had by hiding a food treat or two inside a cardboard tube like the ones inside a roll of kitchen paper. Stuff a crumpled sheet of paper in each end so that your cat will hear the treat rattle when he batters it about the floor.

Cat nip

Anyone who has given a toy stuffed with cat nip knows the cat will most probably go wild for it (although there are some cats who seem to be immune to its spell). Cat nip toys are relatively inexpensive but if you have basic sewing skills it is simple to make your own using some clean fabric, a little toy stuffing and fresh catnip. Alternatively, see Kim's World on page 51 for a great cat nip toy idea from Kim.

Just like a child, your cat will love a toy box full of a great mixture of robust activity toys and some home made fun. Enjoy playing together and be sure to leave a few toys around for your cat if you leave him alone for a period of time during the day. 🐾



What do some of the Cat World cats like to play with?

We were keen to find out.

Kim Rogers (Kim's World) - Cyril's favourite toy is his catnip mouse. He plays with it every morning after he has been outside and then had his breakfast. He trots into the front room and pounces on his mouse. He lays with it on the rug and attacks it before cuddling it to his face holding it against his cheek until he drops off to sleep. It's very sweet. He will also sometimes be found in the kitchen chasing his own tail. He has only recently started doing this and I think after a couple of revolutions he must get dizzy, as he stops pretty quickly.

Tipp's has a spider on a bit of elastic which lives in my bedroom that he plays with. Sometimes I find it on the bed, sometimes in the bed and sometimes under the bed. It moves around daily. He likes it when I swing the spider at him and he hides behind the edge of the bed then jumps up in the air to catch it. Tipp's loves to jump and catch. He also likes rolled up bits of paper, receipts and the like. If you throw the paper at him, he will catch it between his paws. He's got great ball skills!



Lorraine Schofield - Mia is the most playful of my three cats and loves to play with toy mice, balls or pieces of string. Play has been really beneficial in helping Mia to relax as she is a very nervous and anxious cat. I therefore make sure that I roll a ball at her or dangle a piece of string in front of her most days and she really enjoys it. Indeed, it is almost as though she is a different cat when she is immersed in play and it has helped strengthen the bond between us.

All my cats love a cat nip mouse and I recently brought one home for them which resulted in a desperate clamber for ownership! Next time I will have to buy one each so that they are all happy and do not fall out!

Katy Edge - My cats have always preferred random household objects to cat toys. As well as the usual cardboard boxes, shopping bags, bits of string and dressing gown cords, there have been some bizarre ones. The Squee, our brown tabby, had a long love affair with an aerial from my boyfriend's car. Happee adores a huge soft toy pencil we found on a car boot (you can see why: it makes a great bed); Widget is obsessed with a wrist-watch I bought from Asda - I have to hide it when I go to bed or he'll drop it on my face - and with my shoes; and Charlie likes anything belonging to the dog. My cats are also fans of artificial plants!

My boyfriend and I are in the process of buying our first house and we are planning to put in some aerial walkways for the cats. They also have lots of cat trees, interactive toys and secret hideaways.



Some cats, however, are not as enthusiastic when it comes to play

Laney (Gordy & me) - I was hoping to take some great photos of Gordy playing outside but as you all know, pets rarely perform to order. We did get Gordy out in the garden but as you can see from the photos, the closest he got to playing was looking at a leaf! He does love his 'pet' mouse though! Other than that he just isn't a playing cat - he's currently comatose in the sunny window for the next ten minutes until he gets removed before he overheats.

And Teeko...well, I don't think I have ever known such a sedentary cat!





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ASIAN CATS OF MANY COLOURS



This fun loving, gentle breed has a wonderful temperament, make loyal companions and the choice of colours is staggering

In 1981, a well known member of the cat fancy, Baroness Miranda von Kirchberg, was the proud owner of two very different kittens. One, a longhaired silver male Chinchilla called Jemari Sanquist and the other, a shorthaired lilac Burmese called Bambino

Lilac Faberge. The two were inseparable. When Faberge came in to season, a suitable husband was found for her but then fate stepped in to change everything. While waiting to go to stud, Faberge had been locked in Miranda's study to keep her out of harms way.

The cleaner was unaware of this and on hearing Sanquist's plaintive cries outside the door, unlocked it and the pair were reunited. Nine weeks later, four beautiful black silver-tipped girls arrived - the first Burmillas had been born.

As they grew it became apparent that



their colouring was from Sanquist and their type from Faberge and Miranda began to realise their potential. Why not develop a silver version of the Burmese breed? After consulting many clubs, breeders and other experts, in 1982 Miranda began to formulate a breeding program to develop the Burmilla as a breed. As a test, the first matings used two of the original kittens - Astahazy Galatea and Astahazy Gemma. It didn't take long



to see that when mated back to a Burmese or another Burmilla, the options were huge. There are more than 500 colours and patterns within the breed, according to recent estimations.

It was decided at this point to use the name Asian for the entire group and then each would have its own title such as Asian Burmilla. Following the 'happy accident', careful breeding has now produced the following groups within the Asian breed.

Types of Asian cats

BURMILLA: may be either silver or non-silver (standard). The silver has a pure white base coat while the non-silver has a cream or beige undercoat, with colour on the top half-to-sixteenth of hair shaft. The tip of the coat is shaded with colours ranging from black to the palest fawn.

ASIAN SELF: plain colour all the way down the hair shaft. The Bombay belongs to this group and is perhaps the best known due to its startling eyes. Numerous colours

have been developed, including Blue, Chocolate, Lilac, Red, Torties, Cream, Caramel and Apricot. In total, 17 colours are recognised in the UK by the GCCF: black, blue, chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, fawn, caramel, black tortie, blue tortie, chocolate tortie, lilac tortie, cinnamon tortie, fawn tortie, caramel tortie, red, cream and apricot. Some people consider the Burmese restricted form of black, known as 'brown' to be an 18th colour. Self colours are always much darker than their Burmese counterparts.

ASIAN SMOKE: a cat of contrasts. Colour to be (ideally) at least half way down the hair shaft, with silver (white) undercoat. This produces a deep based silver undercoat and beautiful contrasting top coat which is most noticeable and beyond doubt when seen from the front, particularly in the Black Smoke.

ASIAN TABBY: these fall into four patterns, the most dominant being the Ticked (from the Burmese breed), then come the Mackerel, Spotted and Classic (mainly



Their gentleness appeals to elderly people looking for a loyal and devoted companion.



from the Chinchilla). All are possible in either silver or standard. The ticked pattern is most dominant followed by mackerel then classic.

TIFFANIE: a semi-longhaired Asian, permissible in any colour or pattern, whose silky medium length coat does not tangle. It has the gentlest nature of any of the Asian breeds. There is such a variety of combinations of colour and pattern. Each

colour is known as either Full Expression or Burmese Colour Restriction. This means that the cat is either a Burmese colour or the unmodified Full Expression colour, which is much darker. For instance, Burmese brown becomes black.

Character

The Asian cat has an inquisitive, outgoing nature. They are intelligent and fun loving, making them the ideal family pet. At the same time their gentleness appeals to elderly people looking for a loyal and devoted companion. Whilst being ultra affectionate, they are also born entertainers which makes them charming personalities.

Asian cats are one of the few breeds which actually state in the breed standard they must be of good temperament which makes them a good show cat too. While judges will make allowances for potential stress in the show

hall, they will give preference to a cat that is quite happy to be handled.

Grooming

Asians are generally very easy to care for, with regular hand-grooming all that is required. An occasional brushing will help minimise the ingestion of hair and formation of hairballs. A bristle brush and a fine toothed comb may be useful if you are showing your cat, although extra care should be taken with the silver varieties, whose coats can have a tendency to be a little more fragile. Rubber grooming brushes are best used with caution as they can strip out too much hair, leaving the coat thin.

The Tiffanie's mid-long coat requires only the minimum of grooming (by stroking) to keep it tangle-free. Owners find the special silky texture has stain-resistant qualities but for those wishing to exhibit their cats, a quick tidy up with a brush or comb is all that is necessary. Bathing will also bring out the best in the coat but you may prefer to leave this for only the highest level of classes.



Asian Burmilla

The breed standard

The cats of the Asian group are elegant cats of medium size and foreign type; the overall type should be the same as the Burmese cat. Any tendency to Siamese type or the cobiness of the British is not permissible and would be sufficient reason for a show certificate or first prize to be withheld. In character they are alert, active and intelligent, with a very friendly disposition.

- **Body** - slender and of medium length and size, it should feel hard, lithe and firmly muscled and heavier than its appearance suggests. Back should be straight from shoulder to rump. Chest should be generous and gently rounded but not disproportionately broad.

- **Legs and paws** - The legs should be slender, elegant and in proportion to the body; of medium length, with the hind legs slightly longer than the front legs; paws neat and oval in shape.

- **Tail** - medium to long, to balance the body, carried proud and of medium thickness, tapering slightly to a rounded tip. The length should be sufficient for the tip to reach the shoulder when the tail is



Asian Ticked Tabby

brought gently around the side of the body.

- **Head** - Forms a short balanced wedge with width at the cheekbones tapering to a blunt muzzle and showing good width at the jaw-hinge. The top of the head should be gently

rounded between the ears, which are set well apart. The head should show a good depth between the top of the skull and the lower jaw when in profile, the brow should curve gently to the bridge of the nose with a distinct nose break; the nose should be straight with the tip of the nose leather in line with the chin which should be firm and of good depth, and the bite level and even. The head, elegantly carried on a neck of medium-thickness, should be in proportion to the body.

- **Ears** - These should not be overly large, more medium-large in size, broad at the base with rounded tips and set well apart so that the outer line of the ears continues the angle of the upper part of the face to produce a butterfly-wing outline from the front. In profile, the ears should have a slight forward tilt. Ear tufts and streamers are preferable in the Asian Semi-longhair (Tiffanie). Allowance should be made for correctly shaped but over-large ears in kittens where the head size and shape is still developing.

- **Eyes** - the Asian's expressive eyes almost immediately capture the viewer's attention, as they are probably the breed's most expressive feature.

The amazing range of Asian colours

There are an incredible number of colour and pattern combinations of the Asian coat - so many it is mind-boggling! If you have a head for maths, read on...

Base colours: black, chocolate and cinnamon (3)

Dilutes of these: blue, lilac and fawn (3)

Dilution-modified caramel

Torties of all of the above plus red, cream and apricot ($7 + 3 = 10$)

This gives 17 possible colours, all of which can be 'full expression' or 'burmese restriction', the latter turning black into brown etc. (another 17 making 34 in all)

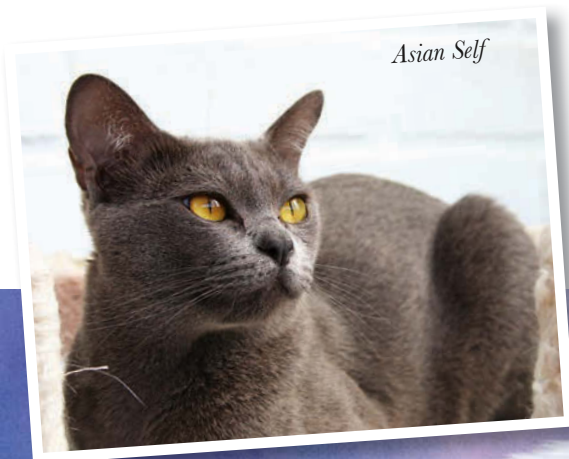
These all come in non-agouti (self or smoke), shaded and the four tabbies: ticked, spotted, mackerel and classic (6 patterns giving 204 colour/pattern combinations)

All of these can then come in standard or silver (taking the total to 408 possibilities)

Add to that the possibility of either shorthair or the semi-longhair Tiffanie and you have a total of 816 different possible colour/pattern/hair-length options to choose from. If you split caramel into its three forms (blue-based, lilac-based and fawn-based), the total is 1,008 different possibilities.

If you also include the lighter form of shaded, known as tipped, then it's 1,176 permutations!

With many thanks to Heather McRae of the Asian Group Cat Society



Asian Self



Tiffanie



Large and lustrous and set well apart, the top lid forms a slight curve towards the nose, the lower lid is fuller and more rounded. Eye colour varies according to the variety - green in the silver Burmilla and Tiffanies while gold is accepted in the solid colours.

• Coat type - In the Asian shorthair the short coat is fine and lies close to the body, making this breed one of the easiest cats to groom. Texture should be smooth and satin-like with a glossy appearance. The semi-longhaired version, the Tiffanie, should have fine fur with an extra-special silky texture; medium-long, except over the shoulders, without a woolly undercoat.

• Coat colours/patterns – Asians come in an almost uncountable number of colour/pattern combinations. There are Black,

Blue, Chocolate, Lilac, Cinnamon, Fawn, Red and Cream, Black Tortie, Blue Tortie, Chocolate Tortie, Lilac Tortie, Cinnamon Tortie, Fawn Tortie, Caramel, Apricot and Caramel Tortie.

The Burmese colour restriction of any of these colours is acceptable in all except the Self and Tortie varieties and the Silver gene is accepted throughout the range.

Eye colour varies from yellow to shades of green, depending on coat colour. Gold is preferred in the Self colours whilst green is the preferred choice for those in the Silver range. Any sign of blue, orange or copper should be penalised. The colour of the eye rims is important, as it should always tone according to the coat.

• Nose - leather should be appropriate to the coat colour. In agouti (tabby and shaded) cats, it may be pink rimmed with the equivalent Self or Tortie colour. 🐾

Scale of points (except Tiffanie)

Head	15
Ears	05
Eye shape/set	10
Body	10
Legs and paws	10
Tail	05
Coat colour and pattern	20
Eye colour and rims	05
Length and texture of Coat	10
Overall condition and temperament	10
TOTAL	100

Tiffanie

Head	15
Ears	05
Eye shape and set	10
Body	10
Legs and paws	10
Tail	05
Coat colour and pattern	10
Eye colour and rims	05
Length and texture of coat	20
Overall condition and temperament	10
TOTAL	100





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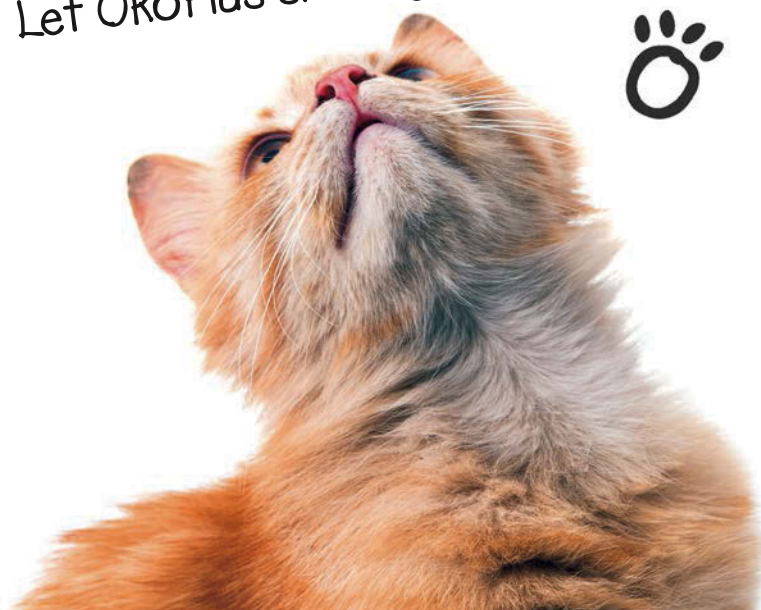
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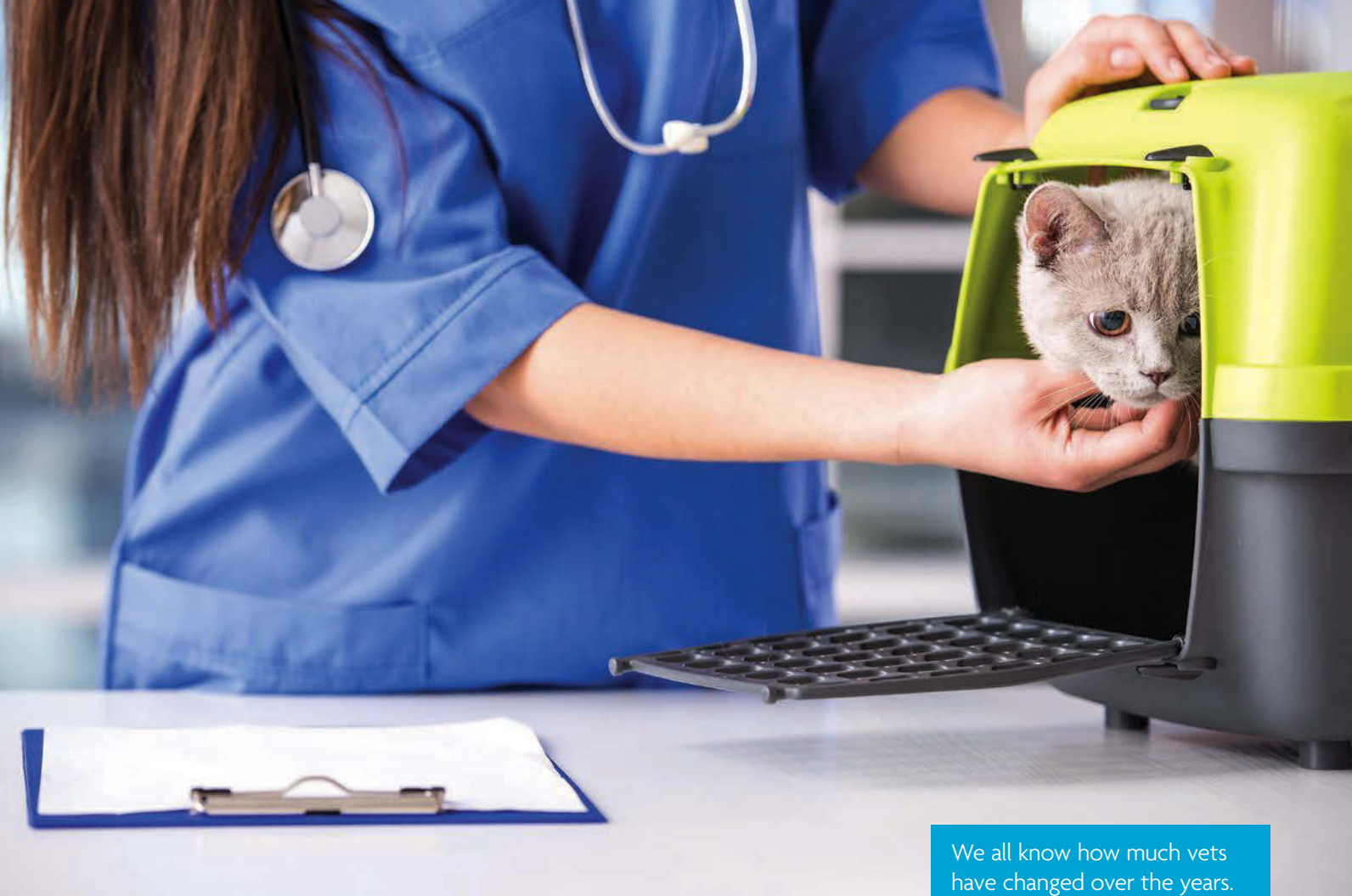
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We all know how much vets have changed over the years. See what to expect during a visit on P66-67.

Visit the vet without stress

With this excellent advice from Inga McKellar, trips to the vet will be easier for your cat, you and the vet in future



Although we obviously hope not to see our veterinary surgeon often, most cat owners will need to take their pet to the surgery at least once a year for booster vaccinations. Because of the infrequency of visits and the nature of cats being very territorial, these visits can be very stressful for cats.

Cats are not accustomed to being shut up in carriers, travelling in cars or being away from their territory and, therefore, a veterinary surgery visit can be a difficult time for both the owner and the cat. However, with some forethought,

there are things that cat owners can do to ensure that the experience is as smooth as possible.

Carrier comfort

Most cat owners tend to keep the cat carrier in the garage or hidden away in a cupboard. Therefore, the only time that a cat sees the carrier is when it is due for a vet visit. As well as the carrier smelling unfamiliar, some cats may already have an unpleasant past recollection of being picked up and forcibly placed in the carrier.

More often than not, as soon as a cat sees the carrier it runs off! An ideal long term solution to this problem is to make the carrier part of the cat's daily life. Depending on the size and style of your carrier, this can be permanently placed in a room and perhaps draped with a blanket. If some comfortable bedding is provided, most cats enjoy having a 'cosy' carrier to sleep in. Particularly during the winter months, placing a heated pad in the carrier will be appreciated. By having the carrier permanently available for the cat this not only gets the cat used to

going in and out of it, the carrier obtains the cat's scent.

Handling skills

Interaction between cat and owner varies from person to person and cat to cat. Most cats enjoy being stroked but not all are happy to be lifted or carried. These issues will also have an impact on a planned veterinary visit. Some pet owners prefer their cats to stay on the floor and will tell their cats off for jumping onto surfaces or tables.

But consider what happens at the veterinary surgery. The cat is removed from the carrier and placed on a table to be examined. Therefore, it makes sense to get your cat accustomed to being handled when placed on a table at home. Getting into the habit of picking up your cat and placing it on a particular table a couple of times a week will make future examinations far easier. As your cat is on the table, stroke it and feed it tasty treats such as pieces of chicken.

Travelling to the vet

The whole process of travelling, be it in a car or public transport, can be very distressing for cats. Whilst some cats are confident and inquisitive and are happy to see what is going on around them, many become frightened by the experience. I always recommend, unless you are absolutely sure that your cat is not anxious about the journey, that you cover the carrier.

Cats feel safer in dark places where they are 'hidden'. Ideally cover the carrier with a blanket that your cat uses at home as this will have his scent on it. Also ensure that any bedding you place in the carrier is not freshly laundered but has already been used by your cat. Scent is incredibly important to cats and surrounding a cat with its own scent can help to alleviate anxiety.

At the surgery

Because scent is incredibly important to cats, arriving at a surgery waiting room full of other cats and probably dogs and other pets, as well as unknown people, 'strange' smells and lots of noise, can make the cat anxious and fearful even before it is seen by the vet. If you have a nervous cat and if you have arrived by car, let the receptionist know and wait in the car with your cat.

You can then take your cat straight into the consulting room without having to wait in the waiting room. If this is not



possible, a blanket is, again, an absolute necessity. Drape the whole carrier so that the cat cannot see out and other animals cannot see in. When I am at the vet myself I am always surprised by the number of cat owners who allow their obviously frightened cat to be approached and sniffed by dogs...or stared at by strangers. The calmer your cat is, the less

stressful the veterinary examination will be.

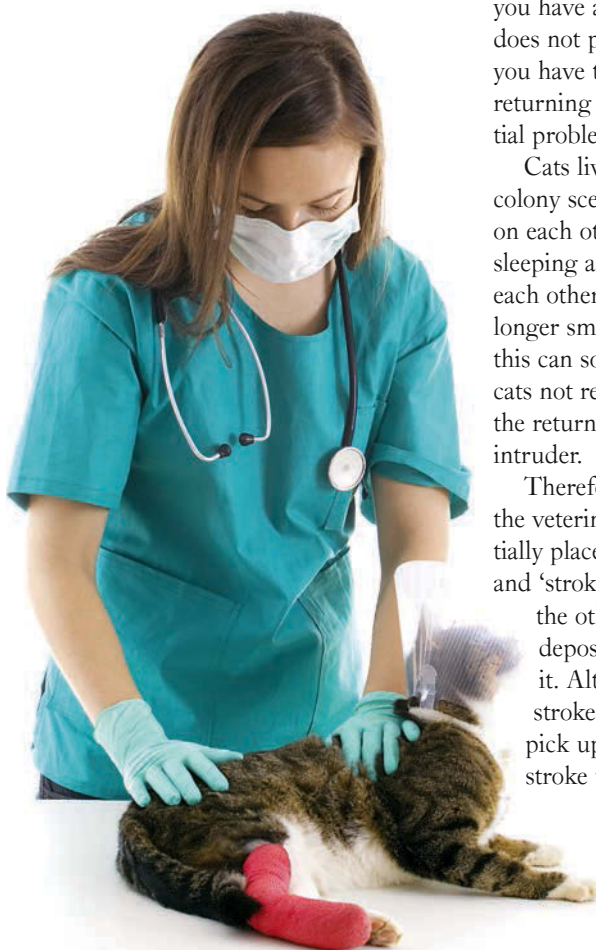
Veterinary visit after effects

If your cat has been examined by the vet and more so if it has been admitted for a procedure, when your cat comes home it will smell very different because of the handling that it has received. If you have a one cat household, then this does not pose a problem. However, if you have two or more cats, then a cat returning from the vet could be a potential problem.

Cats living together normally form a colony scent. They deposit pheromones on each other through grooming, sharing sleeping areas and rubbing up against each other. The returning cat will no longer smell like part of the colony and this can sometimes result in the other cats not recognising it. In severe cases, the returning cat may be attacked as an intruder.

Therefore, when coming home from the veterinary surgery, it is wise to initially place the cat in a room on its own and 'stroke' it with the blankets that the other cats have been using, to deposit the colony scent back onto it. Alternatively use a soft cloth to stroke the cheeks of the other cats to pick up their pheromones and then stroke the returning cat with the cloth.

With these few simple procedures, future vet visits should be less stressful for your cat, easier for you and safer for your vet. 🐾



A bit of Bombay black magic

These striking black cats are certainly not spooky but if you decide to own one of these masters of charm, they will definitely put a spell on you

Forget what you've heard about black cats being wicked - Bombays are 'as black as night' but as gentle and affectionate as a cat can be. The exotic name is taken from its cousin, the dangerous Indian black panther but a glossy, black coat is as far as the similarity goes. As a breed, Bombays crave human attention and love to have your company. Like a heat-seeking missile, the Bombay makes an instant lap cat. Both sexes make excellent pets. While they will get along with other breeds, the Bombay usually wants to dominate other cats, so a dog might make a good companion for a Bombay. Quiet, sensitive, reserved and intelligent, the Bombay does best in a quiet home, where it is affectionate to the whole family. If you and your family go out to work and leave the house empty then a lone Bombay may not be a happy one.

Bombays are a cross between a sable Burmese and a black American Shorthair - straight out of Sixties America. Breeder Nikki Horner wanted to create a black panther in miniature and by 1976, had got the breed recognised. But it was not until the early eighties that a few British breeders

decided to bring the breed to the UK. It took more than a decade of mismating, setbacks and perseverance but finally, the vision of a black Burmese was being realised.

While the Bombay is recognised as a specific breed in the USA, here it is part of the Asian group of cats. The breed earned preliminary recognition with the GCCF in 1990 and Bombays and Asian Selves progressed to Championship status, being able to compete in Championship classes since 2000.

The Bombays love interaction with humans and playing games. They will adapt to living indoors and some have been trained to wear a leash. They love heat and can often be found sleeping under the duvet.

Breed standard

COAT: The coat must be short, close lying and jet black, as are the nose leather and pads. The eventual black lustre takes time to develop and is not usually apparent in kittens.

EYES: The eyes are set far apart and



can be copper or gold though green is acceptable but no blues or colour variants are allowed.

EARS: The ears are medium large and broad at the base and sit on a neat, shapely head and muzzle and round cheeks that make for an appealing expression. Small, dainty feet and medium, slim legs and tail give this cat elegant good looks.

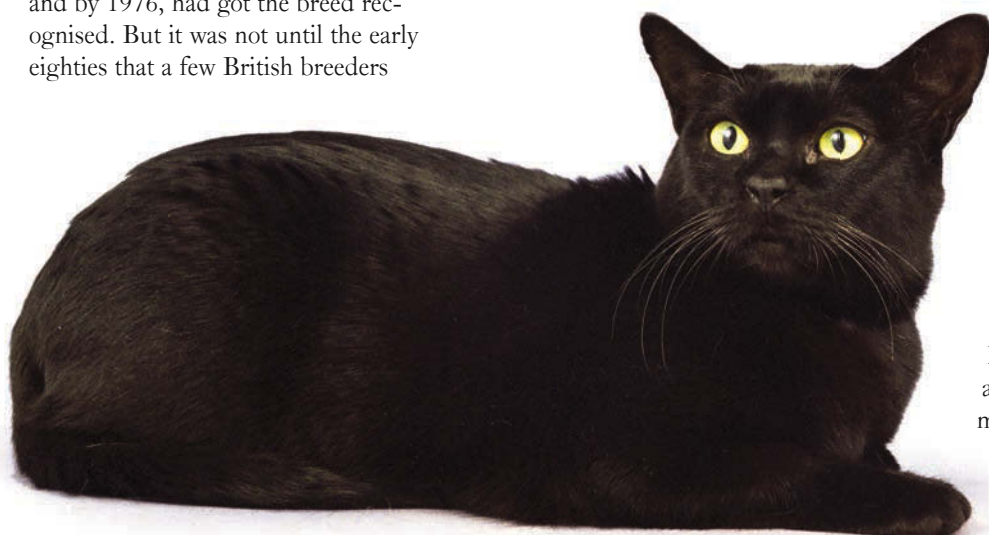
NOSE LEATHER, EYE RIMS AND PAW

PADS: Nose leather and rims must be solid black. Paw pads should be solid black or a very dark brown.

Bombays require little grooming and just stroking the cat will keep the coat shiny and free of dead hair.

A rubber brush or glove can be used for excessive shedding. Given that the Bombay loves affection so much, grooming will not be a chore. If you want a cat to stroke, this could be the one for you.

It is important to maintain the Burmese type in the breed, so Bombay to Burmese as well as Bombay to Bombay breeding is allowed. After all, they do share many of the behavioural characteristics of a Burmese too. They are quite vocal and do like to be the centre of attention. 🐾



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OF MYTH AND MAGIC

What is it about cats, especially black ones, that make them such creatures of mysticism and in some cases fear?

No wonder we are led to believe that cats have nine lives. First, the Ancient Egyptians held them in great esteem and mummified them to be buried along with kings and queens. They believed that the felines would act as communicator between the real and spirit worlds. If a black cat crossed your path in Ancient Egypt, it was a sign of good fortune.

Fast forward a few thousand years and in Medieval Europe, the tables were turned completely and cats were associated with witches and evil. There are still contradicting views as to whether they bring good or bad luck today.

The belief that cats are evil might not be quite so widely held but in certain parts of Europe, cats are still thought

to have a sixth sense, particularly about bad news and death. Once again it is the poor black cat that gets the brunt of it. Italians, for instance, fear that if a black cat lies on the bed of someone who is ill, they are sensing or even bringing death.

Elsewhere in the world here have been reports of one particular cat at a nursing home who would appear at the bedside of a critically ill patient and visit them until their final hour. It was claimed that the cat had 'predicted' almost fifty deaths.

You may have noticed your own special feline, fast asleep, suddenly become wide awake, raise their head and stare intently at the door or the corner of the room. Have they seen or sensed some-

thing from the spirit world? Do they possess telepathic skills that we only dream about in science fiction? Is this really a bad thing?

There are an increasing number of cases being reported where cats can sense or predict a condition in their owner such as cancer or the onset of a seizure. These cats are said to repeatedly paw at the area where the tumour is found and seem to be remarkably accurate. Perhaps it could be triggered by a change of scent from their owner or maybe they have an incredible instinct - more research is needed for sure.

Recent findings also suggests that stroking cats or listening to them purr can be very therapeutic for humans in stressful situations and cats are being taken to rest homes and prisons for example to help calm the residents and inmates.

There was even a report in the press this month that cats were being taken to soldiers on the front line in the Ukraine where they are being treated as pets, providing a welcome distraction for war-weary troops.

Rather than be feared and turned away, cats should be applauded for their apparent psychic abilities, whether we understand them or not. They may be mysterious and they may have a sixth sense...and they may just be holding the key to something that could make a big difference to us all. 🐾

AN APPRECIATION OF FELINE FOIBLES

Those little habits that most cats have can actually be part of what makes them so special to us - cat owners should make allowances for annoyances

By Lorraine Schofield

As the owner of three adult cats, my friends and family and also new acquaintances often ask how I manage to put up with their various habits and especially those feline foibles which can be both annoying and testing. For instance, Tibbles, as a dedicated hunter, loves nothing better than to bring home a mouse in the early hours and announce his hunting prowess by mewing loudly until I get up to acknowledge his catch. Indeed, only a couple of weeks ago, when I was in desperate need of a good night's sleep as

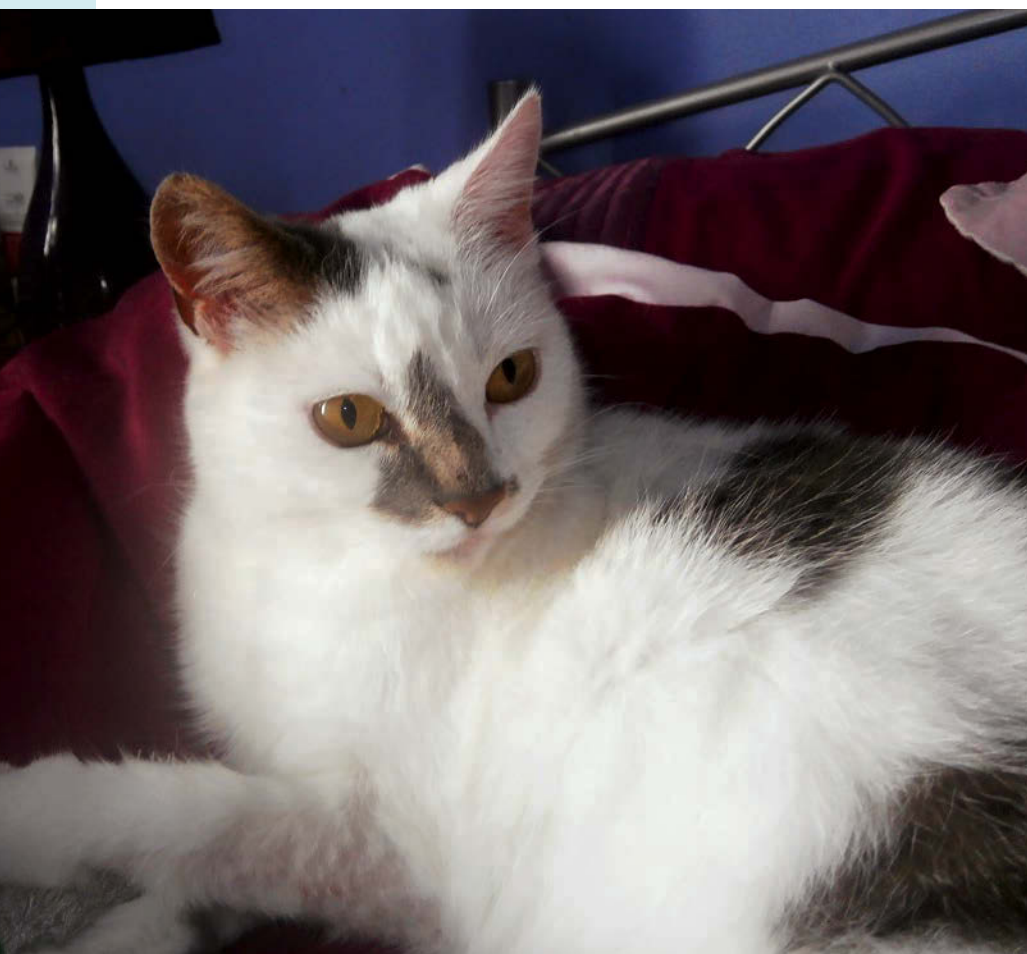
I had an early start the next day, he chose to wake me up at 2am with his loud wails and would not stop until I had got up and observed the poor dead mouse that he had brought in. Needless to say I was not exactly amused but having owned Tibbles for 13 years, I have become accustomed to his habits and certainly, as the saying rather aptly states, it goes with the territory with regard to cat ownership.

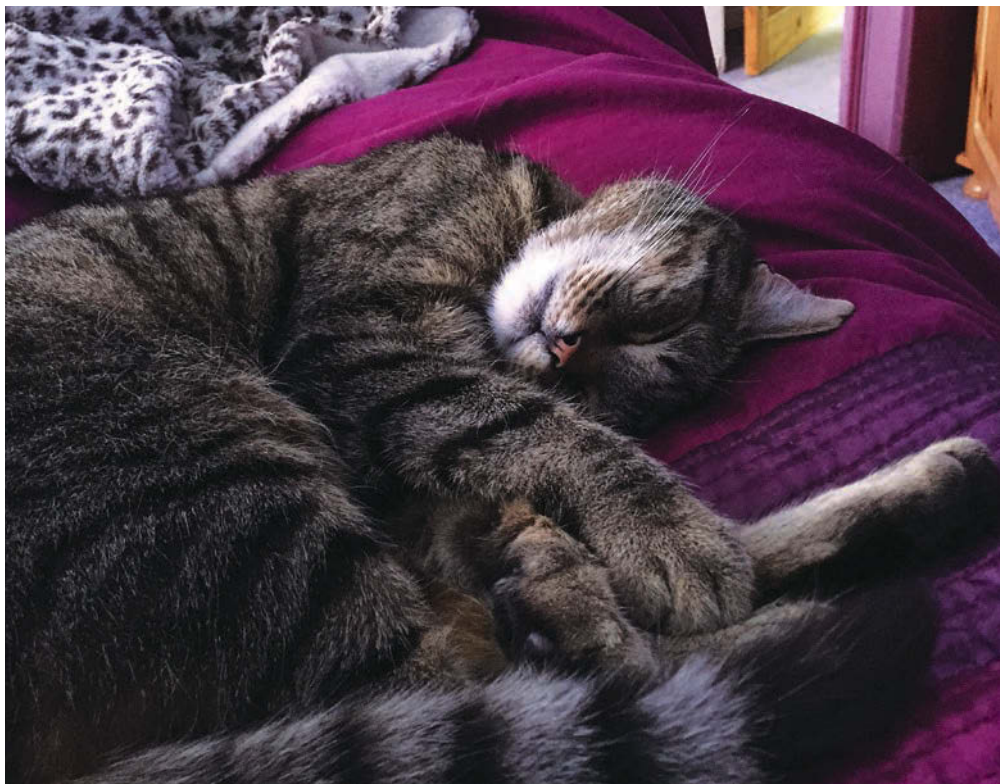
Both Toby and Mia, my other two younger cats, also have habits or foibles which are less than desirable. Toby has

a great love of the outdoors but rarely uses the cat flap if he knows that I am at home. Instead, he loves nothing better than jumping up onto my front window ledge and wailing to come in. However, once I open the door he often refuses to come in but still continues to wail on the window ledge which can be most annoying! In fact, Tibbles has also developed this habit as, being older, he is getting too lazy to go to the back of the house and instead either howls to come from the front window ledge or else scratches the front door frantically with his paw! Mia, who is still a rather nervous and timid cat, still likes to make her presence known and will bat endlessly at a closed door if she wants to go into a particular room, which again can be rather irritating at times.

However, I believe that if my cats could talk, they would also cite some rather annoying habits or foibles that I possess and which they are forced to tolerate. This I feel would include my habit of long lie-ins at the weekend which means that they are forced to wait for their breakfast. Indeed, only last Saturday, I was awoken at about 9am when a parcel delivery man knocked at my door, which meant that I had to get up to answer it. However, although Tibbles and Toby promptly went to their bowls for their breakfast, I have to admit that I went straight back to bed for another couple of hours! Tibbles and Toby, much to their credit, dutifully came back to bed with me and patiently waited for their breakfast at a later time.

This to me shows that cats also have to make accommodations in order to adjust to our habits and live in harmony with us. Likewise Mia, the newest member of my feline household, has had to get used to my habit of always disturbing her to





change my son's bedding just as she has settled for a nap! Indeed, if she could talk she would no doubt also grumble about the dreadful noise of the vacuum cleaner which also disturbs her napping most days.

Therefore feline foibles, as annoying or inconvenient

as they can sometimes be, are part and parcel of owning a cat and they in return also have to adapt to our own habits and idiosyncrasies. Moreover, as annoying as a feline foible may prove to be, every cat is undoubtedly unique and it is his or her own little habits and routines that help to define our cats' characters and make them individually special.

Tibbles for instance, loves to jump on my pillow and lick my face as soon as he hears my alarm go off in the morning and although I do not always like his repeated licking of my face, the sound of his resounding purr reminds me that he loves me and wants to show me affection, even if he also is keen to remind me that it is breakfast time!

Similarly, Toby's habit of constantly jumping up on my coffee table and crying for Dreamies when he comes into the house, although annoying at times, serves also to remind me that his little

I believe that if my cats could talk, they would also cite some rather annoying habits or foibles that I possess and which they are forced to tolerate.

routine and my positive response helps to make him feel loved, rewarded and secure.

Finally Mia, although a prolific scratcher of my landing carpet and a great lover of sitting on my ironing pile duly covering my clothes in fur, is at last through her little foibles demonstrating that she is more and

more relaxed and at ease with herself and is finally adapting to life in my home with two feline companions.

Thus it was with great delight, and in spite of the masses of white fur upon my bedding, that only the other day I saw that she had actually, for the first time, settled for a nap upon my bed at the same time as Tibbles and Toby. This clearly was another breakthrough moment in my on going quest to integrate Mia successfully with Tibbles and Toby and create feline harmony in my home.

Ultimately, feline foibles may sometimes be somewhat annoying but they also serve to demonstrate the variety of cat behaviour and help to reveal our cats' personalities and their individual quirks. Moreover, like most dedicated cat lovers, I am prepared to overlook them in return for the immense pleasure that owning a cat, or in my case, several cats can bring. 🐾

Recognition for work of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Chief Executive

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Chief Executive Claire Horton has received an honorary doctorate from the University of Roehampton, in recognition of her conspicuous success in raising standards across the animal welfare sector and furthering the profile of Battersea, an iconic 155 year old charity, which has gained worldwide recognition from welfare specialists.

Claire, who joined Battersea as Chief Executive in 2010, has a background of 30 years working in management across the voluntary sector. Since joining, public support for the Home has rocketed, the number of animals helped has increased and Battersea's income has risen from £10m to £30million per annum. Volunteer numbers have also increased nearly 200%, affording the animals 76,000 hours of volunteer care each year.

Nominating Claire for the honour, Professor Garry Marvin from the University of Roehampton's Department of Life Sciences, said: "Claire has proved a persuasive and resourceful ambassador, using every possible opportunity to ensure that the work of the Home is seen and understood by key influencers as well as the British public.

"If there's ever anyone whose little black book you should be looking to steal, it's Claire Horton's. She can call upon some of the UK's most influential business minds, blue chip companies, ministers and most of this country's famous faces. I don't think there's a royal she hasn't persuaded to have a Battersea dog! She even managed to get a cat into Downing Street and convinced The Prime Minister to visit the home!"

Claire commented: "To be personally nominated by Garry Marvin, Professor of Human-Animal Studies, is a great honour and I am incredibly proud that the work of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home has been recognised by Roehampton, the top modern London University." 🐾



“Indian summer? I don’t
believe a word of it..”



JUST FOR FUN

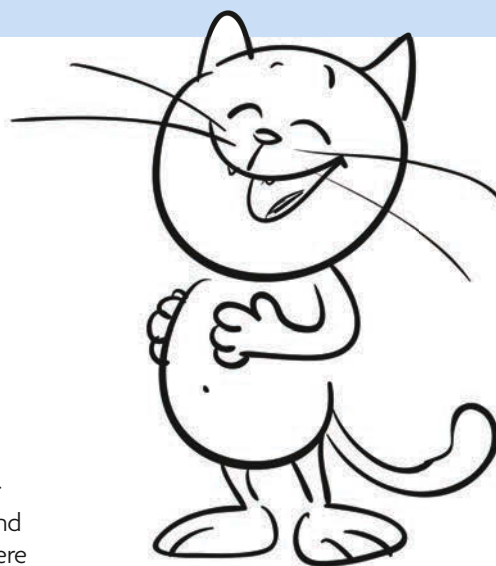
Wordsearch

It's all about home entertainment, rest and relaxation this month. If your cat is a 'spring chicken' and likes to chase mice (toy ones of course) all day long or prefers a cosy nap followed by a leisurely stretch, the right amount of sleep and exercise is as important for cats as it is for humans. One of the words listed here has been missed from the grid...can you exercise your brain to find which one?

S V T Y C A T T R E E D A E M
K H Q S L P N G E B C N R J J
Y T E C O K P U I A A A C O J
V W X L T P B O T V Z W L D G
I D N T V Y H N E D D Z G O D
S L L E B E I C R S R J I R J
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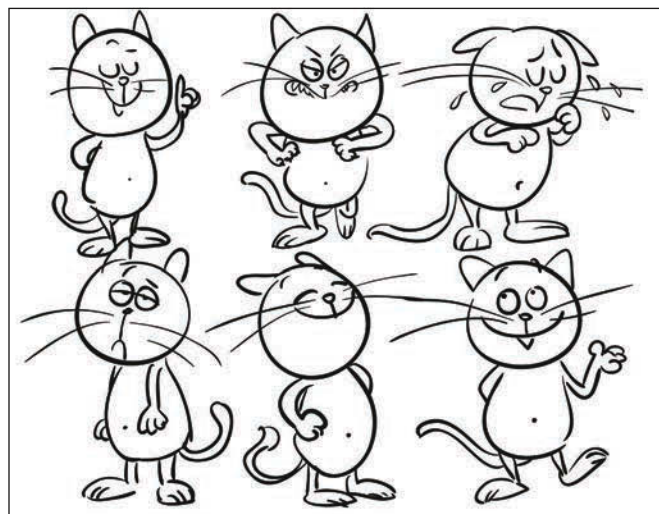
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CATTREE
FEATHERS
JINGLE
BELLS
SHELVES

CARDBOARD
FISHING ROD
CATNIP
WAND
MOUSE



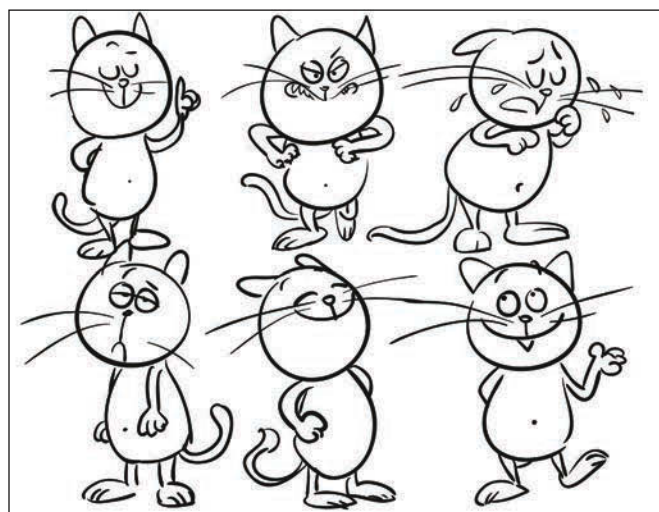
Spot the difference

Can you find 8 things in the picture at the bottom that are missing



Answers from last months fun pages

The answers to spot the difference. Grizabella was missing from last month's word search.



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GORDY & ME

WITH ELAINE MEAD

LIFE WITH AN ADORABLE CAT WHO JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS

The night stalkers could easily be the title of a favourite novel but in this case, they are a welcome home party...but for who?

My favourite book is Slinky Malinki by Lynley Dodd. It's a children's book with fantastic illustrations showing Slinky Malinki, a sleek black Siamese cat, and some of his friends with equally fabulous names like Hairy McClary, Greywacke Jones, Butterball Brown and the Poppadum kittens. The book's rhyming story tells of their adventures with enemies like Scar Face Claw.

The book I have, originally bought for my children when they were little, tells the story of when Slinky Malinki sneaks out of the cat flap and into the night to meet his fellow prowlers. The group of feline friends sit on a wall, hob-nobbing in the moonlight until Scar Face Claw, a big fat tom, comes along and starts a fight. Lots of hissing and spitting, then lights go on in windows across town and "Shut up cat!" can be heard echoing into the night. The end of the book sees the group troupe back through the cat flap into Slinky Malinki's house, to sit and snooze in the glow of the embers left from the dying fire, hob-nobbing on the raggedy rug.

It's a great book and it

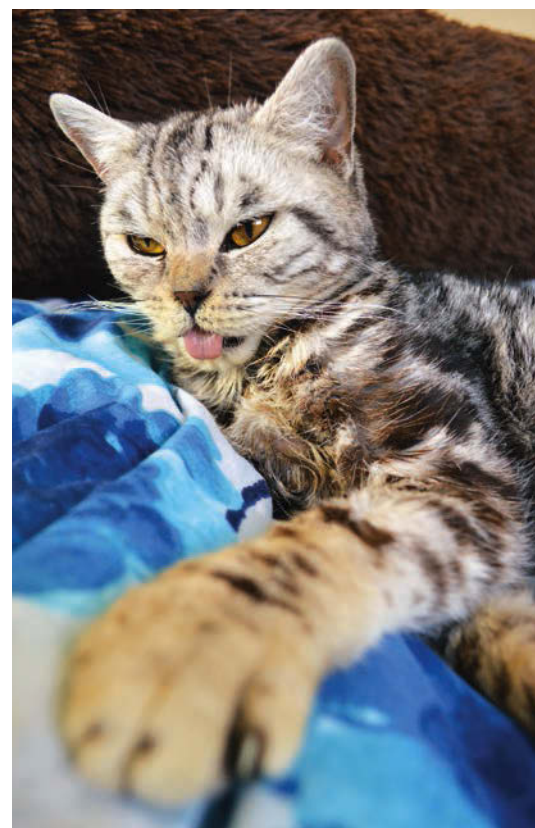
remains a favourite of mine, on the book case in the hall, with Skipper the Cat by Jenny Coleman and illustrated by Jo St Baker, another fantastic children's book about a ginger cat that ends up in trouble all the time. My friend brought back a couple of these Skipper story books from New Zealand and they are still favourites in this house 20 years later. (As far as I know the Skipper books are only available in New Zealand).

Of course I have 'grown up' books in that bookcase too and there are a lot about animals, cats in particular. I am turning into that batty eccentric cat lady, at least according to my family. The grown up books, although without great illustrations, paint the picture of stories like the adventures of Thermal, a little white cat, written by Deric Longden; Alfie the doorstep cat by Rachel Wells – her first novel and well worth a read... and many more, but Slinky Malinki and Skipper remain top of the list of favourites.

Slinky Malinki, Scarface Claw, Skipper and others like them are active, dare devil cats that venture outside,

their owners not knowing where they are or who they are with. Cats not being mobile phone users, their human parents can only wonder and worry until they hear the 'flip flap' of the cat door marking the return of the great warrior coming home from his latest adventure and, if my previous cats were anything to go by, they usually came in with a rodent, mole...rabbit... or something!

In our house we no



longer have a cat flap, actually we've not had one for 20 years since my dog back in those days, a gorgeous black and gold German Shepherd by the name of Ricky, decided to keep sticking his head through it in the vain hope that he would fit through and could go off with one of the nine rescue cats we had at the time to share in their adventures around the farm we lived on. He never did fit and always ended up wearing the cat doors proudly like a weird plastic 'statement' necklace causing the husband and I to abandon the idea of cat flaps and train the cats – the cats training us would probably be more accurate – to sit by the door until it was opened and access to the great outdoors was granted. Having nine cats we were kept very busy with door person duties!

Both Gordy and Teeko being house cats mean we no longer have the worry of when they will come home, if they are stopping out at an all night cat rave, mixing with the wrong crowd or just liv-



ing rough for a night in a barn, mouse watching. Neither Gordy nor Teeko walk the lanes in the dark, keeping the local wildlife - the badgers, foxes, mice and voles - in line. The owls don't have to hoot at their stealthy shadows or the flash of moonlight find the back of their eyeballs and cause the mirror effect, enhancing the smallest sliver of light so the cat in question can stalk its prey. No, Gordy and Teeko could, if they wanted, cat nap all day, making sure that they stock up on enough sleeping hours to get them through the night.

Could. They 'could' do that. But, instead Teeko insists on walking the hall and rooms with Gordy, his ever present shadow, copying his every move. Unfortunately we have wooden floors in the living room and all the bedrooms meaning that Teeko's claws 'trip-trap' like the Billy Goat Gruff across the trolls' bridge, that classic Norwegian children's tale. (Yes I love my children's classics!) Even though I clip both cats' nails, Teeko's just never seem to be short enough to be noiseless on the floors.

The cat club

Recently after a week away with her boyfriend, my daughter returned home and found that both Gordy and Teeko had been using her room as their own personal designated 'Cat Club' space. The Boys, as I now call them, had made themselves very much at rest, building a den amongst the discarded clothes that littered the bed. The sun shines in that room first thing in the morning and both boys love to stretch out, Teeko on 'his' chair with the fluffy cushion and Gordy on the big double bed on top of my daughter's lovely soft suede jacket that this particular week she had left slung over the growing pile of 'stuff' - it brings out the silver in his stripes!

I have been amused to watch them each day, Teeko eyeing his 'little brother' from his slightly higher position and Gordy trying as always to be more like Teeko, to be more cat-like and what better place to start than sun worshipping together? For most of the week I would sneak around the door frame and catch Teeko just staring at Gordy, who would be upside down, snoring his little head off. Teeko's face was a picture of wonder

I am turning into that batty eccentric cat lady, at least according to my family.



and query at this strange cat-looking creature that just didn't behave like a cat! But, all good things must come to an end and the owner of the jacket, chair and bed returned, with boyfriend, who stayed the night and didn't get much sleep as a big, fluffy Birman-shaped 'Billy Cat Gruff' and little black-and-silver-striped-with-sticking-out-tongue British Short Haired 'Billy Cat Gruff' trip, trip, tripped on the wooden floors all night.

Neither could settle and both were, I think, a bit miffed that their 'Cat Club' had been invaded. Gordy spent some of the night jumping on to the bed and after climbing over the boyfriend - my daughter could sleep through a hurricane - would wake him suddenly by staring into his face as he had watched Teeko, his little tongue slightly more moist than a sleeping boyfriend, or anyone really, would like. Then,

like a tag team, once Gordy had him awake, Teeko would trip, trip on the floor boards, his fluffy paws making no effort to soften the sound that echoes around the house in the early hours. The boyfriend did emerge the next morning not quite bright eyed and bushy tailed and, although his own home is ruled by two demanding cats, he did comment about the Terrible Twosome and their night time prowling as I politely enquired as to

whether or not the shriek I heard in the night was him.

It was. Teeko, showing Gordy how to do the 'wake the boyfriend and show him who is boss cat around here' had taken his turn at staring into the face of James (the boyfriend) who, fast asleep, felt eyes upon him and woke to find big blue ones staring into his. James shrieked in fright (apparently he wasn't really scared, just shocked!) and Teeko, leaping into the air at the sudden noise, landed with a thud off the bed and onto the floor, where he shook himself off, stuck his tail in the air and strutted away with all the dignified grace that befits a haughty cat, with his little shadow Gordy close behind. Tails waving, they both trip, trapped into my room. I was stifling my giggles with the quilt at this point, having woken up to the sudden shriek.

As they both padded around to my side of the bed, Teeko meowed his displeasure at how he had been treated in his own room and Gordy jumped on to the bed, walked all across Izabel and settled down, tucked neatly into her tummy, her long feathers of fur covering him like a snuggly blanket. She lifted her head, glared at me for the interruption, acknowledged that Gordy was tucked up with her and went back to sleep.

Like a true man, Defi dog slept through the whole episode and so did the daughter. All that could be heard at this point was the soft gentle snores of a certain cat! 🐾



ASK^{THE} EXPERTS

OUR PANEL ARE HERE TO HELP

If you are worried about your cat's health, our panel of experts will try to help. Here are some answers to your questions

Is she in pain?

Q My cat Bella is thirteen years old and has been relatively healthy all her life. Lately she has become slow to get up and isn't keen to go out in the garden like she used to. She has a litter tray indoors so it isn't too much of a problem and I'm wondering if she has developed arthritis but how can I tell if she is in pain?

A Pain, in its various forms, is hard to put into words. We have all experienced pain but sometimes we cannot adequately explain what it really feels like. Sometimes pain makes us feel grumpy, tired, low or even anxious about what the pain might mean.

Cats will feel the same, but they can't explain their moods in the way we can. They can't tell us that the reason that they lashed out was because it hurt when we moved them or that they aren't as affectionate as they once were because it hurts

to jump up beside us.

It is difficult to recognise chronic pain in animals, but it is particularly challenging to do so in cats. This is because they are generally more independent than dogs, for example.

We tend not to take cats for walks or ask them to jump in a car and we tend to think that they are a little temperamental and changeable in their likes and dislikes. Therefore some changes in routine and behaviour are put down to the quirkiness of being a cat.

We now know that a large proportion of cats over the age of twelve have arthritis. This does not mean that they are all suffering from arthritis but that their joints are undergoing changes that will eventually lead to the joint not working properly, although that change may take several years.

We cannot properly explain why some cats (or humans) will suffer from pain in these joints and why some will not but

the key to finding out whether your cat is suffering is to look at changes in their behaviour.

Diagnosing pain

Diagnosing arthritis in cats is much harder than it is in dogs. There are relatively reliable changes in dog joints to give us strong clues that the joint is not healthy, but these signs, like swelling, pain on touch, cracking noises and pain when the joint is moved, are often not present in cats even when the joint is arthritic.

Cats are lithe and light, so they do not always limp, become obviously stiff or cry out as we might expect them to do. They suffer - but do it quietly. Therefore, we cannot rely on the veterinary surgeon to notice the signs of chronic pain and arthritis in a cat just by examining it. Vets also need to ask questions about the cat's history and behaviour.

Pain causes cats to change some aspects of their routine and behaviour and cat owners need to look out for these changes to help the vet reach an accurate diagnosis. It pays to watch your cat's daily routine.

Changes in behaviour

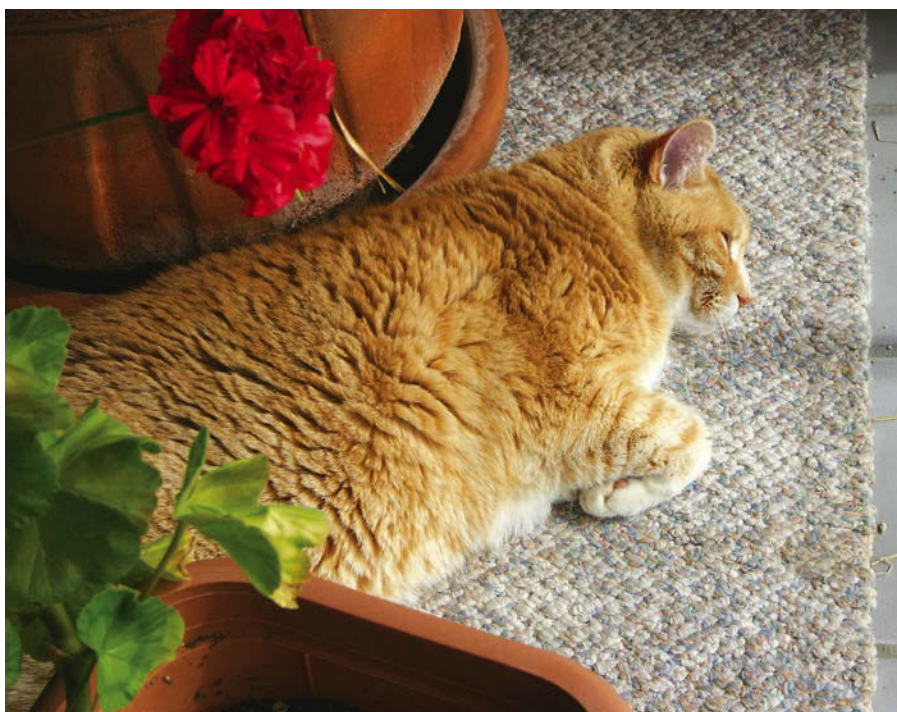
Here are some of the common areas in a cat's life where pain causes change:

- Jumping onto high surfaces
- Play and general activity
- Grooming or coat quality
- Scratching behaviour
- Demeanour; less affectionate, more grumpy, more clingy, more aloof

Sometimes actual behaviour problems, such as inappropriate toileting or aggression are caused directly by pain and this is one aspect that should be considered if your cat has developed a behaviour problem.

It is important not to take any of these changes in isolation, as a strong indicator that your cat is in pain. There may be another reason why your cat is not as playful. For example, perhaps you are busier than usual and spend less time playing with your cat or have assumed that it does not need to play since it is getting older and no longer a kitten.

However, if there are no obvious reasons to explain a change in your cat's behaviour



then you should discuss the possibilities with your vet. Pain is not the only cause of change and arthritis is not the only cause of pain, so do not be surprised if your vet wants to look at other aspects of your cat's health.

Treating arthritis

The treatment of arthritis involves several approaches. Firstly, the 'itis' in arthritis means that the condition involves inflammation and subsequent treatment with anti-inflammatory medication.

For years, cats had no veterinary licensed anti-inflammatory medication until Meloxicam for Cats became available. This has been tested for safety and efficacy on cats and is relatively easy to give as a liquid on the food. Many people use a glucosamine and chondroitin supplement for their own joints and this is also available for cats.

Acupuncture has been shown to be useful in treating the pain of human knee osteoarthritis and is used widely by veterinary surgeons to treat pain in cats. Cats accept acupuncture surprisingly well; if your vet offers this, do not be put off by the thought that your cat will not tolerate it – try it and see.

Better environment

You can help a cat in pain by modifying their environment so that it can get all the things it needs easily and without having to suffer more discomfort. For example, create 'steps' so that they can reach a high area to sleep, make sure that the litter tray sides are not too high, adapt play so that your cat doesn't have to run about too much and consider comfort when you choose grooming equipment and beds.

There is some evidence that making an animal's environment as good as it can be will actually make them feel better. Think about yourself - if you are ill or in pain, would you rather struggle on at work or have your home comforts and some added tender loving care?

Will he start spraying?

Q I have adopted a male cat who is seven months old but hasn't been neutered. I keep him indoors all the time and he hasn't sprayed anything yet to mark his territory. When will that start?

A Firstly, not all cats will spray but by not having your cat neutered you are greatly increasing the chances of this happening.



Does she want me to stroke her or not?

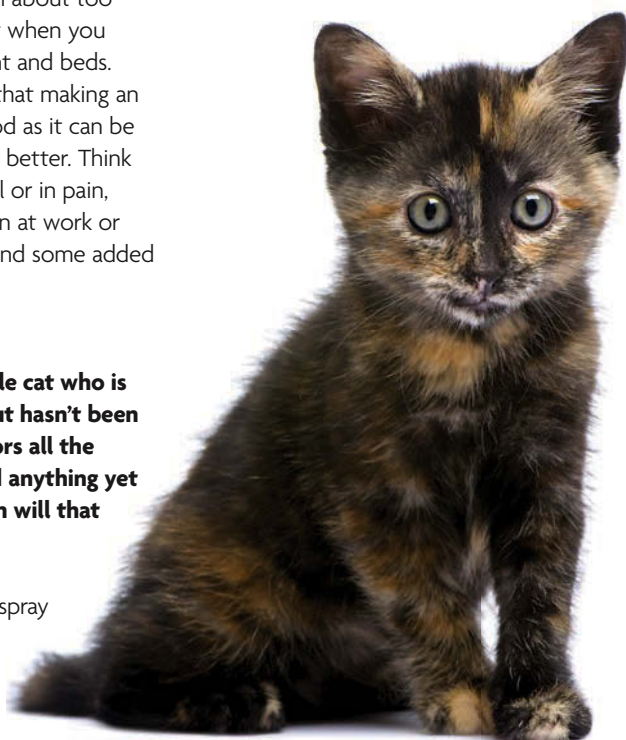
Q I recently adopted a rescue cat, Bobbie, who is generally a very good natured, friendly cat. She never bites or scratches apart from in one particular part of the house. There is a space on the small landing half way up the staircase where she likes to lie and she will roll over on to her back, asking to be stroked but when I do so, she attacks me. What is wrong?

A It is possible that you are misreading the signals Bobbie is giving you. Many dogs can be taught to roll over for a tummy tickle but actually, this pose has very different origins for both dogs and cats.

If Bobbie is rolling on to her side or back, exposing her tummy, it is more likely to be for the original purpose of asking the approaching cat, dog or human to back off. When fighting, cats will roll on to their backs, displaying all their claws as a show of weaponry and means of attack. It can also be part of a mating display.

Rather than asking for a gentle stroke, I'm sure Bobbie is saying "here I am - come and play fight".

Don't get cross as by stroking her tummy, she will see this as you agreeing to play her game. If you then tell her off, she could start to mistrust you and this will spoil the bond between you. Why don't you keep a toy near to that particular spot so that next time she wants to play fight, she can engage with the toy rather than your hands.



Your cat may be content indoors at the moment but it is quite likely that at some point in the future he could see a cat walk past the window or something will happen in the house that upsets him. You may go to visit a friend who has a cat and come home smelling of an unknown cat, etc, etc - situations like this may well make him start spraying.

I would really recommend that you have him neutered before he starts. Neutered males are far less likely to spray and once a cat starts spraying, there is only a 50/50 chance that you can get him to stop, even if you do then get him neutered.

If you leave him intact, he may start spraying or he may not but you need to consider if you are happy to take that chance. 🐾

● If your cat's problem requires urgent attention, please seek advice from your veterinary surgeon without delay.



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KIM'S WORLD

AT HOME WITH KIM ROGERS

Summer fetes and car boot sales are a great place to find flowers, cakes and some ideas for new cat toys

With the long nights slowly drawing in and the odd heavy downpour of rain, I sense that the summer is slowly coming to an end. When the wind is howling around the cottage, it feels like a change of seasons is just around the corner.

The last few fetes of the summer have taken place. I love a good fete or flower show. Hundreds of people turn out and there is always plenty to see and do. There is usually a tombola, some car boot sale type stalls and this year oddly, I have seen some very strange ones including a 'guess the weight of the lamb' stall, a 'name the types of seeds' one and a coconut shy that had plates instead of coconuts. This was really noisy and the elderly people nearby were jumping out of their skins whenever the plates crashed to the floor!

I like seeing the flower show entries which are shown in the grand marquee. Some are funny, especially the ones the kids have made. There are things like vegetables shaped into animals and baked goods which are sometimes unrecognisable. Still probably better than I could do though.

New lease of life

I always look at the bric-a-brac stalls for odd little soft toys that I can fill with catnip for the cats at the Sanctuary. I found three toys in one day and took

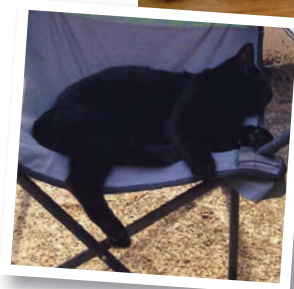


them home, gave them all a good wash and then went about unpicking the seams to take out some of the filling to make room for the catnip. Getting the dried catnip inside is pretty tricky, most of it goes on the floor but I enjoy sewing them back up while watching rubbish on the TV. It passes the time and I know how much the cats at the sanctuary will appreciate them when I take them in.

There was one slight problem. Having sewn them up, I then lined them up on the worktop in my utility room ready to take with me when I next went out to the car. There were four toys altogether that I put there. The next day there were just three. The white mouse was missing! I searched around the utility room but it wasn't anywhere obvious. The same went for the kitchen. I finally found it under the chair in the living room. Hmmmm, suspicious, I thought to myself.

I couldn't tell Tipp's or Cyril off because I didn't know which of them had taken it or indeed when. I have my suspicions it was Cyril. He pretty much gave it away when the very next morning he did his usual routine of going outside, eating his breakfast then playing with his blue mouse, except he totally ignored the blue mouse and went straight to the white one. I didn't have the heart to take it from him. He likes chasing its tail. I will have to sneak it out of the house when he's asleep and put it in a bag in my car.

Don't feel sorry for him, he has hundreds of toys and presents. Just this week I went to the pet shop and £40 later came out with two big bags of the very best 1.5 kilo cat biscuits, various small bags of treats, ten pouches



of organic cat food and two little cat toys. I unpacked it for them in the front room. It was a bit like Christmas - they rubbed their faces on every single item

I pulled out of the bag, purring all the while. As soon as the bag was empty, in Tipp's jumped. Ignoring the toys I bought, they played for the next ten minutes with the empty bag! Tipp's would get in, then Cyril would bash him from the outside, then out one would jump and in the other would get, swapping positions all the time. Apparently this was much more fun than playing with the toy mice I had bought.

After a while they both got bored and, yawning with exhaustion, they opted for a nap.

Firm friends

My friends' kitten has grown over the past few months and is now adult cat sized. It's a shame, as I love to cuddle kittens but they don't stay small for long I guess. The good thing about them growing up is that they slow down slightly and stop climbing the curtains and scratching all the furniture. My friend takes the kitten outside with her and the cat (Molly) sits on her lap watching the rabbits and guinea pigs running around. Molly even goes in their play area with them and sits quietly or has a little game with them.

She has grown up with them so has no interest in hurting them. They are her little friends and they all play nicely together. It's lovely to see animals all getting along together. 🐾

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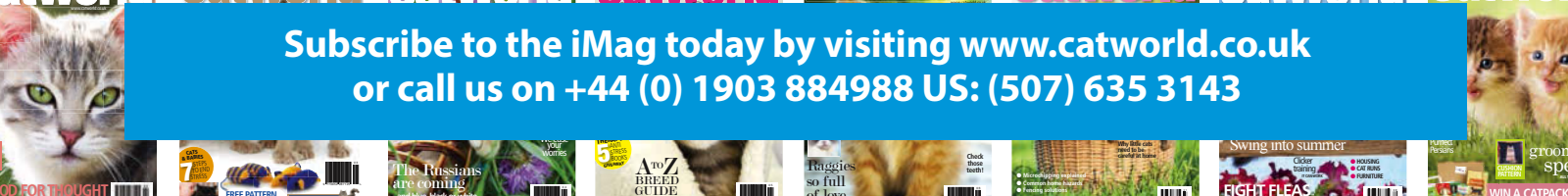
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SHOW DATES

FORTHCOMING SHOW DATES

GCCF

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 19

Bucks, Oxon & Berks Cat Society

Wood Green Animal Shelter,
King's Bush Farm, London Road,
Godmanchester, Cambs. PE29 2NH

East Sussex Cat Club

Wood Green Animal Shelter,
King's Bush Farm, London Road,
Godmanchester, Cambs. PE29 2NH

Scotia Cat Fanciers

The Hub C.E. Centre, 405 Kilbowie
Road, Clydebank G81 2TX

SEPTEMBER 26

North West Cat Club

Leigh Indoor Sports Centre,
Leigh Sports Village, Sale Way,
Leigh, Lancs. WN7 4JY

South Western Counties Cat Club

Matford Centre, Matford Park Road,
Matford Business Park, Exeter,
Devon EX2 8FD

TICA

SEPTEMBER 19/20

NaturallyTICA

Doncaster (EW Regional and
Regional Awards Banquet)

OCTOBER 03/04

Magnifikatz

(Venue to be confirmed)

OCTOBER 10/11

BCCGB, Solihull, West Midlands

NOVEMBER 07/08

Celticat, Dublin

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 03

Burmese Cat Society

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Colourpointed British Shorthair Cat Club

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Egyptian Mau Cat Club

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Tabby Cat Club

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Long Haired & Semi Long Haired Cat Club

Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot
Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9SE

Maine Coon Breed Society

Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot
Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9SE

Norsk Skogkatt Society

Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot
Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9SE

Seal & Blue Point Birman Cat Club

Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot
Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9SE

Turkish Van Cat Club

Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot
Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 9SE

Ocicat Club

Ettington Community Centre,
Robers Lane, Ettington CV37 7SX

Russian Blue Breeders Association

Ettington Community Centre,
Robers Lane, Ettington CV37 7SX

Siamese Cat Club

Melbourn Village College, The Moor,

Melbourn, Hertfordshire SG8 6EF

Tabby Point Siamese & Progressive Breeders Cat Club

Melbourn Village College,
The Moor, Melbourn,
Hertfordshire SG8 6EF

OCTOBER 10

Havana & Oriental Lilac Cat Club

Wistaston Memorial Hall, 75 Church
Lane, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 8EZ

Rex Cat Club

Ettington Community Centre,
Rogers Lane, Ettington CV37 7SX

OCTOBER 24

Supreme Cat Show

The NEC, Birmingham B40 1NT

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 07

Bengal Cat Club

Cricklade Town Hall, High St,
Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire
SN6 6AE

Blue Persian Cat Society

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Central Longhair and Semi Longhair Cat Club

Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Bilford
Road, Worcester WR3 8DX

Caledonian Long Haired Cat Club

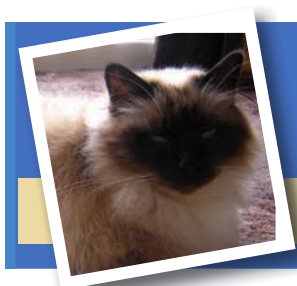
The Lomond Centre, Woodside Way,
Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5RA

The British Ragdoll Cat Club

Winecote Community Leisure Centre,
Tinkers Green Road, Winecote,
Tamworth B77 5LF

National Pet Show

The NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT



SHOW NEWS

WITH CAROLE KEMP



A Supreme day out

The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) run their annual Supreme Cat Show at the NEC on Saturday 24th October 2015 where the top cats in the country and Europe compete for the title of Supreme Exhibit. There is a Pedigree

Supreme Exhibit, a Non Pedigree and a Pedigree Pet Supreme Exhibit.

Not only are there a lot of cats to see but there are also stalls where you can buy goodies for your cat or even an early Christmas present for a cat mad friend. There is also an area called Club Row where you can talk to breeders and owners alike about the cats they own which is great if you are interested in a particular breed.

The show is a must for any cat lover whether you just want to have a day out with the furries or if you

are thinking of getting a pedigree cat. It's an ideal opportunity to have a look at all of the breeds and find out their good and (sometimes) not so good points. It also gives you an opportunity to see just what happens at a cat show. Most owners and breeders are more than happy to discuss with people what they love about the breed of cat that they have.

Best In Show starts at around 3pm when the Non Pedigree and Pedigree Pets are judged across the main stage followed by the Pedigrees.

The show starts at 10am and tickets can be bought in advance. Go to the GCCF website www.gccfcats.org/ or Ticketmaster to purchase them.



LAKELAND & DISTRICT CAT CLUB - BEST IN SHOW & BEST OF VARIETY

Show Reporter: Heather Bradley

Show Date: Sat 20 June 2015

OVERALL BEST IN SHOW: The Siamese Kitten -
ALDERSTAR BABYBEL

PERSIAN

ADULT: CH ZENDIQUE ZUT ALORS (PER d 03 (12a5)) M

KITTEN: ALGERNON DREAMCATCHER (PER f 03 (12 1)) F

NEUTER: BARLEYFIELDS PADINGTONBEAR (PER d (4)) MN

SEMI LONGHAIR

ADULT: SABLE KLAN HENRY FORD (SOL a (63L)) M

KITTEN: MYPAWS BLUE XMAS (RAG a 66a)) F

NEUTER: UK & IGR PR LINGCOMB ENDYMION
(SBI n (13c1)) MN

BRITISH

ADULT: OBIGC CATYKES EDWINSON (BRI as 22 (18a)) M

KITTEN: QUIZZICURL PUFF OF SMOKE
(SRS gs (79S 36g)) F

NEUTER: OBIGC & IGR PR LEONITARA PRINCE-
CHARMING (BRI ns 22(18)) MN

FOREIGN

ADULT: GR CH KREMLINKATZ KATYA KALIKOVA
(RUS a (16a)) F

KITTEN: ZAWADI BUNDARA-PIXI (BEN N 24 (76 30)) F

NEUTER: XZIBIT PANTHER (SPH n (84 15)) MN

BURMESE

ADULT: CH JACOU EXHILARATING EZEKIEL (BUR c(27c)) M

KITTEN: NEMOREZ BIPPITY BOPPITYBOO (BUR b (27b)) F

NEUTER: IGR CH & IGR PR KARLAC JAYLENE
(BUR b (27b)) FN

ORIENTAL

ADULT: GR CH GABLEME LAWAN LAWAN KANIKA
(OSH h (37h)) F

NEUTER: PR ENIGMATIC STANDING OVATION
(OSH em (37fn)) MN

SIAMESE

ADULT: UK & OSIGC KARAMUSHI TUTI FRUITY
(SIA f (32b1)) F

KITTEN: ALDERSTAR BABYBEL (SIA r (32b9)) F

NEUTER: IGR PR LITTLEFEAT DISTANT THUNDER
(SIA d (32a)) MN

HOUSEHOLD PETS

NON PEDIGREE PET: UK & OGIGMC RAINBOW
DREAMCATCHER
(SH Tortie & White) FN

PEDIGREE PET: MC THEO (SLH Brown Classic Tabby) MN

CHESTER & NORTH WALES - BEST IN SHOW & BEST OF VARIETY

Show Date: Saturday 8 August 2015

Show Reporter: Heather Bradley

Show Date: Sat 8 August 2015

OVERALL BEST IN SHOW - UK OG IMP GR PR KASSARO CISCOKID

PERSIAN

ADULT: GR CH ZENDIQUE ZUT ALORS (PER d 03) M

KITTEN: GEMKIN ZENYATTA (PER n 03 21) F GR CH & IMP

NEUTER: GR PR VIVALDI TEDDY-BOYES (PER d 03) MN

SEMI LONGHAIR

ADULT: GR CH ISADORYOU DEAR DARLIN (MCO n 03 22)

KITTEN: M COONARIA HERCULES (MCO n 03 22) M UK

NEUTER: OG IMP GR PR KASSARO CISCOKID (MCO n 03 22) MN

BRITISH

ADULT: GR CH SURREPTICIOUS GEORGIO (BRI ns 24) M

KITTEN: MAKRISSNIC TANGLED (BRI j) F UK OS GR PR

NEUTER: KOLINGA BLUBELLA (BRI g) FN

FOREIGN

ADULT: LINCZOZO BEE'S KNEES (ABY n) F AMORCATZ

KITTEN: SHIVAMATIMBAS (TOS n 21 32) F IMP GR CH & PR

NEUTER: ONATUREL GIFT WRAPPED (SPH w 63) FN

BURMESE

ADULT: CH ALBA REGIA PADLIZAN (BUR c) M KATCHYN

KITTEN: MANDARIN (BUR d) M CH & PR SHIVARENE

NEUTER: SHALIMAR (BUR c) FN

ORIENTAL

ADULT: IMP GR CH ALDERSTAR ANDRO (OSH em) M

KITTEN: TOGHAR LORENZO LAMAS (OSH em) M IMP GR

NEUTER: CH & IMP GR PR FIORDILISO NANPEMA-NUAGE (OSH n 03 33) MN

SIAMESE

ADULT: UK IMP GR CH KELVELS TWICE AS NICE (SIA b)

KITTEN: M SENSUAL MR VALENTINE (24c) M GR PR

NEUTER: SULALAYA ICEWARRIOR (SIA m 21) MN

HOUSEHOLD PETS

NON PEDIGREE PET: INKY PINKY PARLEZ VOUS (SLH Black) M

PEDIGREE PET: OB IGMC LOLA LA BELLE (SH Seal Point & White) FN

Fancy going to a cat show?



The UK Cat Fanciers Cat Club (UKCF) would love to see you at one of their shows in 2015 or 2016

The UKCF is an official club of the Cat Fanciers of America (CFA). The CFA moved from a US club to an international club more than 50 years ago when it became more common for breeders to export their cats internationally. Breeders wanted the opportunity to show their cats with the association they were registered in and under the standards they were bred for. This led to the development of several new clubs in other countries around the world.

The UKCF is now part of the CFA's International presence and is dedicated to the preservation of pedigreed cats and the hobby of feline exhibition. We educate and assist breeders with establishing CFA registered catteries. We help breeders register kittens with pedigrees that meet the standards of the breed as defined by CFA. We also mentor cat lovers who are interested in exhibition or breeding.

The UK Cat Fanciers Club was established in 2012 and received official recognition by CFA in 2013. Our club welcomes all cat lovers and we strive to educate the public on issues concerning feline health and development and providing a safe and healthy home for feline companions.



Our shows

We have now held two shows in the Kent area and each one has been attended by a larger number of visitors as word gets around. Our next show will be at the Family Pet Expo in Manchester on October 3rd-4th 2015. See below for details of this and our shows in 2016.

For more information about our club or questions regarding exhibition of your feline companion (pedigreed or pet), please contact us at UKCF@mail.com, on Facebook at UK Cat Fanciers or via our website

www.ukcatfanciers.co.uk

CFA is the largest registry of pedigreed cats in the world!



2015/2016 UKCF show dates:

2015: 03 - 04 October:

Event City, Manchester M41 7TB

UKCF Expo & 2 ring AB show and Household Pets

2016: 23 - 24 January:

Crown Woods Academy, London SE9 2PT

UKCF 8 ring show: 6 AB rings & SP rings and Household Pets

07 May:

Crown Woods Academy, London SE9 2PT

UKCF 6 ring show: 4 AB rings & 2 SP rings and Household Pets

01 October:

Crown Woods Academy, London SE9 2PT

UKCF 6 ring show: 4 AB rings & 2 SP rings and Household Pets



In memory of Suki Katzilee

It is with great sadness I announce that Suki passed away peacefully under general anaesthetic on 11 July 2015. Sadly this heartache is faced by many owners

By Sonja K Steiner

I have been overwhelmed at how many kind messages of support and condolence I have received about Suki, what a lovely home my family gave her and how she wanted for nothing. Despite this there simply are no words of comfort that can be offered during the grieving process that can ease the pain and upset of losing such a loved and cherished member of the family.

I always believe that when an animal crosses over Rainbow Bridge they sit on the brightest star to let their owners know they are safe. On Saturday evening it was cloudy but the next day a butterfly got in between the window and mesh and it was almost as if that was Suki's way of letting me know she was ok. I continued to see the butterfly fly around the stable and the garden and I feel it is Suki's way of still being around me.

I first wrote about Suki in the May 2014 edition of Cat World and how we had quite an uphill battle with campylobacter but with a lot of nursing and treatment we won and although still a carrier, she was finally clear.

I remember her earlier years with much fondness; both her and Fifi used to wander over the fields to the farm to see their fellow felines. There was no doubt Suki was the leader of the 'feline ferals' along with her male counterpart who was

affectionately known as 'Hitler' and his friend Arnold. It was always Suki and Hitler who got the first helpings of food. The fab four would 'hang out' together at the farm, languishing in their favourite sun spots. Suki was a prolific mouser but as she got older, lost interest in catching the wildlife and became more timid and she spent less time at the farm and more time at home; I think the walk over the fields simply got too much for her.

After her long fight against campylobacter she simply decided that there was no place like home and the house and garden seemed like a nice place to live! She had her favourite spots and loved sunbathing with Willow. Sometimes she would venture into the field to eat some grass and watch the wildlife at play. At mealtimes and despite Willow being twice her size, he would often get 'the look' to keep away from her food or if that did not work, a swipe usually did the trick!

Suki had a very distinctive meow; you could certainly hear her before you could see her. Every day she would run across the garden to greet me - she loved brushing up against me and would often jump up and sit beside me on the bench. Despite not liking being picked up she was an affectionate little girl who loved nothing more than being groomed and

fussed over.

It was not unusual for Suki to eat a bit less in the summer than was the norm for her, but when I saw her on the Friday morning she had barely eaten anything overnight. I gave her Reiki and it just did not feel right, so I booked her into the vets for later that day. Although there were no specific symptoms to go on, my gut instinct told me something was wrong.

Later that day she went to see Cathy Buxton at Vets4Pets, where she was examined thoroughly but her symptoms were vague and non-specific and did not give any cause for concern. Despite this I was given the option of taking a blood test so Suki was whisked off to have blood taken and then we went home. Cathy rang me to say all her bloods were normal apart from the red and white cell count, so she suggested that they be sent off to the laboratory.

Suki was very quiet that evening, it was almost as if she had no energy as everything was an effort for her. I brought her food bowl over and she would eat a couple of mouthfuls before she laid down for a rest. By the next morning (Saturday) I knew something was seriously wrong; it was almost as if she was collapsing on me but conscious. So as soon as the practice was open I



Willow and Suki soaking up the sun



took her back to see Cathy. This time on examination, her gums and eye lids were pale and her temperature was lower than normal so she was admitted for further tests. The laboratory confirmed Suki was anaemic but at this stage not the reason why. However an ultrasound revealed what looked like a mass or abnormality in one of her liver lobes and surgery would be necessary to investigate this further.

Cathy rang me to advise what she had found and, because the surgery would be classed as high risk, I asked if I could come and see Suki before she was anaesthetised. At this point Mark Buxton (who is Willow's vet) came in to assist with the surgery. I tried to remain optimistic so I took some tins of chicken and her biscuits with me as post-surgery, Cathy and Mark would take her home and look after her.

As soon as Suki saw me she brushed her head against mine and we had cuddles. I told her how much I loved her. She saw the tins of her cat food and went up to them as if to say "are you not going to open them?" so I knew she wanted to eat. We now know how seriously ill Suki was and she still summoned up what very little energy she had to give me cuddles on what would be our last time with each other and tears stream down my face when I think of this but I am grateful to Cathy and Mark for allowing me to see her.

Then came the phone call I had dreaded: that Suki had not made it through surgery as she had lost too much blood.

I went back in to the vets on Monday to see everyone and thank them for the excellent care they had given Suki over the years and I collected Suki to take her home to her final resting place in the garden.

I asked Cathy about Suki's case and whether I could have missed anything or spotted it earlier but the answer was no, there was nothing I could have done. One of the questions I asked was whether liver tumours in cats are common. The answer follows.



I feel so incredibly privileged that Suki chose me to be her Mommy and her passing has left a massive hole in our lives.

My sincere thanks to Mark and Cathy

Buxton, their veterinary surgeons (as well as locum vet Kennedy Makonese) along with all their veterinary nurses for the excellent care they gave to Suki during her frequent stays at the practice. 🐾

Liver tumours in cats

The next paragraphs are written by Cathy Buxton, BVetMed, MRCVS to explain about Suki's case and liver tumours in cats.

Studies have shown that at least 50% of cats with liver tumours have no symptoms at all. Most tumours, including liver tumours, are not painful. They are often an incidental finding, either being found as an abdominal mass when an examination is carried out, or on an ultrasound scan or x-ray being carried out for another reason. Suki's tumour was tucked so far forward under her ribs that it was not possible to feel it on examination.

Symptoms may only become apparent when the tumour is very large. Symptoms seen in these cases may include weight loss, lethargy, vomiting and jaundice. In Suki's case the tumour was not large enough to cause obvious symptoms. She became ill because her tumour unfortunately had ruptured and she had started to bleed internally, making her anaemic. All tumours that are highly vascular have the potential to bleed without warning because the tumour is abnormal tissue. When within a cavity such as the abdomen, an animal can be bleeding without any outward signs initially. Eventually though the anaemia will make them seem lethargic and tired.

Although we knew Suki was anaemic, we initially did not know why. Even blood tests for liver values and liver function did not show any abnormalities. Tumours can grow slowly without making the liver cells inflamed, and without affecting the function of the whole organ, and therefore blood tests can be normal.

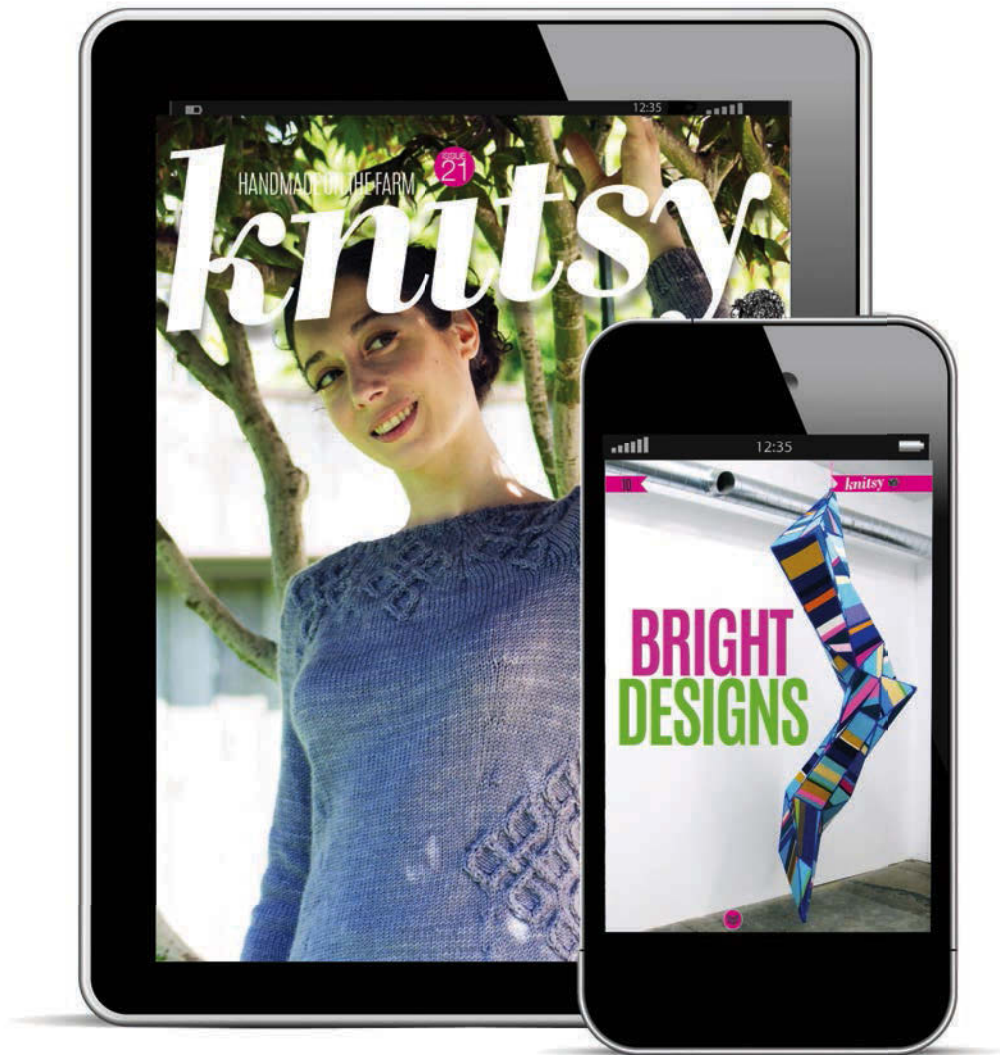
Eventually an ultrasound scan revealed what looked like a mass or abnormality in one of Suki's liver lobes and surgery would be necessary to investigate this further. Unfortunately her tumour was too extensive and she had lost too much blood to survive the operation.

Liver tumours represent 1-3% of all cat tumours. Liver tumours can be primary ie originate in the liver itself or secondary and have spread from tumour elsewhere, but this is less commonly seen in cats.

Liver tumours are much less common in cats and dogs than they are in humans (probably because in humans there are pre-disposing factors for the development of liver tumours which have not been recognised in dogs and cats, such as viruses and metabolic abnormalities, cirrhosis).

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All right for fright night

A fun look at the month in which your cat was born and how that might influence his spook-ability this Halloween

Some cats are naturally spooky, others are easily spooked and there are some felines who are too cuddly or just not interested to have any scare appeal. It very much depends on your cat's Sun Sign.

Aquarius

Independent Aquarius Cat believes in 'live and let them take their chance!' He doesn't much care for mystery and suspense and thinks them a waste of time when you could be doing something much more fun.

- Spooks? Nah!

Pisces

Sweet natured Pisces was born with magic in her paws and communicates on a level we can only imagine. She sees shadows in the mist and senses a presence both real and imagined long before we do.

- Ethereal Spook

Aries

Energetic Aries Cat is always rushing around and has no time or interest in following up a mystery. In fact he wouldn't know one if he saw one. He would definitely prefer a mouse in his paws to the ghost of a mouse past.

- No time for Spooks

Taurus

Taurus Cat has practical matters

on his mind, like is it dinner time? And where should I go to sleep? He is sensible and reassuring and unlikely to shy away from shadows on the wall or anything vaguely creepy.

- What's a Spook?

Gemini

Mischievous and curious, Gemini Cat wants to know what is going on and is open minded. He notices everything and misses nothing. If things go bump in the night it is more likely to be him than anything spooky.

- Not easily spooked

Cancer

Sensitive Cancer Cat is tuned in to things the eye can't see and will happily stare at something in an empty house for no apparent reason. He watches shadows in the dark and disappears like a wraith to follow them.

- First class spook

Leo

Brave Leo Cat won't go looking for trouble, will stand his ground if con-

fronted by something creepy and won't shy away. He may be quaking on his paws but he won't let on and won't turn tail and run!

- No such thing as Spooks

Virgo

Nervous Virgo Cat likes to feel safe and can turn into a scared cat if confronted by the unknown, whether real or imagined. She doesn't like sudden noises or things that glow in the dark and sensibly avoids them.

- Easily Spooked

Libra

Not known for heroics, Libra Cat will try not to upset the powers that be whether in this world or another. He watches his manners and is respectful to all comers and likes to keep all sides happy.

- Not much of a Spook

Scorpio

Scorpio Cat was born with mystery in his soul and no cat can conjure up a spook like this one can! You talk to him and he freezes and gazes over your shoulder. He stares at things you and I cannot see.

- Top Spook

Sagittarius

Playful and always up for a game, Sagittarius Cat has better things to do than hunt for ghosts and ghouls. But if one did turn up he would no doubt invite it to join in his game before following it in the hope of an adventure!.

- Let's play Spooks

Capricorn

Capricorn Cat is a no nonsense, sensible sort of cat not given to skittishness and looking for trouble. He is a reassuring solid presence and should anything deign to go bump in the night, he will look suitably unamused.

- I can't see you Spook 🐾





Trixie, Tibby, Mo, Charlie, Sheeba and Sox. All of them seem to suit their names competely.

So how do you go about choosing a name?

Your cat may have distinctive markings that instantly suggest a name. 'Socks' is a common name given to cats with white paws and those with colored patch on their face are often called Patch, Patches or even Pirate (the patch in question was black!). Tiger or Tiggsy is popular for tabbies.

Coat colour can lead to Blackie, Ginger, Snowy or Smudge. If the cat has a very definite personality trait, maybe you will be welcoming Princess, Rocket, Rebel, Rambo, Bosscat or Quenie.

Location, location

Maybe where you live will influence your decision. Jock, Angus, Bonny and Monty (Montgomery) are all undeniably Scottish in origin while Dylan, Bronwen and Merryn hail from Wales. Heather, Willow and Daisy all conjure up images of a lovely summer meadow with Bosun, Jack and Nelson all suggesting a seaside setting.

Double the fun

What if you take on more than one cat? Relatives of mine were once owned by Bonnie and Clyde and a friend had Starsky and Hutch for companions. Other famous duos that come to mind are Fred and Ginger, Tom and Jerry, Gin and Tonic or Rum and Black.

Starstruck

Cats are often named after famous felines such as Felix, Garfield, Simba, Duchess and of course, Tigger. Politicians too have been the inspiration for cats named Churchill or Lincoln and maybe there's a Cameron or Blair somewhere too.

JUST CALL ME CUTIE

Everyone has a name but finding the right one for any animal, particularly a new pet in a family, can lead to much discussion

Welcoming a new pet home is exciting. You've probably been preparing the house for days, maybe weeks so that everything is in place for the new arrival. If your cat or kitten is being adopted from a rescue centre or purchased from a breeder, it will probably already have been given a name. So do you keep that name or call 'it' something else? What if 'Lady Pamela' or 'Fluffy' isn't to your taste or just doesn't suit the cat who is to be your new pet?

If you are looking for inspiration, the internet is full of numerous suggestions. Some websites have a questionnaire ask-

ing all about your new kitten before supplying their suggestions. Others advise you to choose a name that you will be happy to call out if he or she is allowed to roam and one that suits a kitten through to adulthood.

A cat needs to learn their own name too if they are to come when you call. Try to keep to a name with only one or two syllables - I know a Simba, Harry,





Pedigree cats

If you are finding choosing a name for your new pet tricky, spare a thought for breeders who have to constantly think of new names for their pedigree kittens. Not only that, they often have to have a connection or similarity.

Registered breeders must first come up with an original prefix, the part of the cat's name that's unique to the breeder and precedes the cat's official name.

Litters of kittens are then given official names, often based on a particular theme. Inspiration has been taken from the arts, characters in books, musicals, films and TV soaps. Other have had names based on a foods such as breakfast cereals, biscuits or alcoholic drinks. More refined names have been inspired by gem stones, islands and vintage cars. I wonder how many of these names say something about the breeder's personal tastes?

When that new bundle of fluff arrives, hopefully your heart will melt and the best name for your special feline will pop right into your head - but if it doesn't, help is out there! 🐾

Down the drain

A Chester cat used one of its nine lives recently and became the focus of a Drain Doctor rescue, much to the relief of its owners

Curiosity killed the cat, according to the old saying, but not in the case of one lucky Bengal cat from North Wales thanks to a plumbing and drain repair company.

Cheeta, the curious rescue moggy, had gone exploring in his new home and got himself trapped under the floorboards of the Levy family home in Llangollen, Wales.

The team at Chester Drain Doctor, which covers the North Wales area along with other counties, received a call via the national call centre about the trapped cat. Franchise co-owner Clive Tucker immediately dispatched technician Lee Hampshire to investigate.

When Lee arrived at the home of Elizabeth Levy, the distraught mum and her kids were still searching for the lost cat. Lee was able to locate the cat using CCTV camera equipment usually used for identifying blockages in drains. He said: "Once I had located the cat with the camera I removed a few floorboards and was able to rescue poor Cheeta."

The family were thrilled to be reunited with their pampered pet. Mrs Levy said: "When our cat went exploring and got stuck under the floorboards the kids and I were very upset that Cheeta might not be able to get out and be stuck under the floor forever.

"We weren't sure that a plumbing company would be able to help but I knew that they used CCTV for drain repair investigations and thought that this could work in the search for Cheeta.

"The kids are delighted that our cat is safe and we are really pleased with Lee's expert help in getting Cheeta out from under the floorboards, so a big thank you is due to him and the rest of the Drain Doctor team for their help."

This is not the only pet rescue that Drain Doctor has been involved in this year. Recently the team in Gloucester were able to help rescue an inquisitive terrier from a hole in the ground using similar CCTV equipment. 🐾



Why and how do cats manage to get through such small spaces?

A cat's collar bone is not attached to other bones in the same way as most other mammals. It 'floats' between the shoulders, giving them far greater flexibility of movement. It means they can climb and jump with a lesser risk of spinal injury - useful when pouncing on prey. It also means that they have the ability to flatten and twist their body, enabling them to fit through a space as small as the size of their head.

Cats find security in small spaces; they feel safe there. In the wild they need to hide from predators or creep up unseen on their own prey. Their ability to squeeze through small gaps helps them to do this very successfully - as a rule. Sometimes, like Cheeta, they become trapped and have to be rescued.



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Bella



BELLA'S TRAVEL JOURNAL

Bella has been on her travels again and she seems to have been all over the West Country

I was put on the guest list to visit the Eden project and mum got some fabulous pictures of me there, then on to visit Buckfast Abbey, a visit to the gnome reserve and and then to the famous Pack o' Cards pub in Devon,

In Brixham I was nearly smuggled on board The Pirate ship by Captain Blackheart and nearly abducted by lady Victoria his partner in crime at the Smugglers Museum.

After having seen where the famous Rudyard Kipling went to college, at Westward Ho!, I chilled on the beach for a while and then later climbed Glastonbury Tor. Phew!



SAVE THE SOFA!

If you want to protect your furniture from feline claws, invest in a scratch post or cat tree and your pet will hopefully leave the sofa alone

All cats scratch. It is an important part of their natural behaviour and helps keep claws trimmed. It is also a way of marking their territory, leaving their scent behind in the claw marks. If you discover your cat scratching parts of your home and furniture, he may be stressed, need to claim his own space, particularly in a multicat household, or may have no other outlet for this behaviour.

Investing in a good scratch post and training your cat to use it will undoubtedly save your sofa and carpets. There is a huge range of cat furniture on the mar-

ket so choose something that will suit your cat but also your home.

What to look for

A scratch post should be tall enough that your cat has to really stretch up to reach close to the top of it and sturdy enough to withstand the most aggressive cat. The post is generally covered with sisal rope, closely woven carpet or made from sturdy corrugated cardboard. Some are supplied with a cat toy attached to keep kitty entertained too.

If your cat has scratched carpets in your home, they might prefer to scratch

a more horizontal surface and you can find scratch pads that allow them to do just that.

Some posts are incorporated in cat 'trees' with added platforms and hidey holes for maximum enjoyment. These are often covered in plush fabric, some more luxurious than others, offering a cosy place for the cat to sit and rest or climb to



Investing in a good scratch post and training your cat to use it will undoubtedly save your sofa and carpets.

a high spot to 'get away from it all'.

If you have more than one cat it is advisable to provide a scratch post for each one, either as separate posts or part of a multi-post tree. It can also prove beneficial to have a scratch post in more than one room.

Cat - meet post

So you buy the most amazing scratch post and can't wait to introduce it to your pet when you get home...but kitty takes one look at it and disappears. She may be just not interested in it or may even be suspicious of this new, strange item entering her home territory. Here are some tips for getting your cat used to his new 'home entertainment centre'.

Place the post initially in an area where the cat usually spends some time each day. If your cat scratches on waking, positioning it close to a cat bed might be ideal.

If your cat allows you to pick her up, take her to the post. Gently touch her paws to the post if she is happy for you to and lightly scrape her paws down the surface of the post so that she gets an idea of what she is supposed to do.

Once your cat is happy to be close to the post, try dangling a toy such as a soft ball or feathers attached to a cord over the post and around the base. This will encourage the cat to pounce on the toy and so come into contact with the scratch post.

Encourage your cat to try out a platform or cubby hole in a cat tree by placing a few tasty dry food treats on the surface for them to find.

You should never punish your cat



for scratching your furniture or carpets. Distract her with a toy or gently pick her up and remove her from the area. Try to get her to use the scratch post by using a little catnip.

Alternatives

A scratch post is definitely a worthwhile investment but a basic one may be all you need. Try to provide high shelving space for your cat to climb to or maybe clear the top of a free-standing wardrobe or cupboard.

A free-standing cupboard or cabinet with interior shelves can be a good place for a cat to find a resting place. An unused TV and video cabinet for example seems to be a favourite, as they usually have numerous compartments.

Cat beds like those offered by 3 Fat Cats are made from sturdy corrugated cardboard and combine a sleeping area with a convenient place to stretch and scratch.

As the clocks go back and darker nights arrive, make sure you provide space for your kitty to exercise and rest where she can also feel warm and safe. 🐾



Superior cat toys from Mad About Cats

To keep your cats fit and healthy both in mind and body it is important to keep them entertained by providing indoor activities for them. There are now a wide range of quality toys and games available that will not only provide stimulation and exercise but also fun.

The Catit Play N Scratch cat toy, priced at £11.99, is three toys in one. The outer track contains a ball that they will love to bat around. The centre has a replaceable recycled corrugated cardboard scratch pad and comes with a sachet of catnip that can be sprinkled onto it. For added interest there is also a fluffy ball on a spring, ideal for your cats to paw.

Another toy for indoors is the cat play tunnel, priced £16.99. This blue tunnel features a yellow fish mobile which hangs inside the tunnel and halfway along there is a peep hole. The material is wipe clean and has the added attraction of a crackly feel to it that cats love. Your cats will have a whale of a time playing in this. It is also useful for nervous cats as it offers them a quiet place to sit, making them feel secure.

• These toys together with many other toys and accessories can be found at:
www.madaboutcats.com
Tel: 01942 717667.





Great veterinary expectations

We all need to take our pet to the vet at some time and knowing what to expect can often be very reassuring

As a new pet owner, what can you expect when you have to visit the vet? Obviously each individual practice will have their own systems and opening hours but there are some factors that all should have in common when it comes to taking care of your cat or other small animal.

Reception

Apart from the car park, possibly, this will be the first part of the surgery you encounter. Certainly it will have been if

you have called to make an appointment. Not many surgeries are 'open' for drop in sessions these days. In the past it was not uncommon to arrive at the surgery with your ailing pet and join a queue of other owners. You often needed to be a hardy soul if it was freezing cold or raining as you waited for the surgery doors to open. It meant you would see the vet on the day you needed to but it also meant you were probably in for a lengthy waiting time.



It must have been difficult to know how to staff the surgery as there would be no way of knowing how many pets would arrive on any day and what problems they might have to deal with.

Computers have revolutionised making appointments and keeping customer records up to date but the allocation of appointment times can still have drawbacks. A time slot of a designated length

Take your cat for an annual health check as that may detect a minor problem that can be easily treated before it becomes a more major issue.

will be allocated for each patient. Some pets may need longer than the allocated time or emergency cases may be brought in without a prior appointment. This will result in delays which can be frustrating for the vet and waiting owners, not to mention increasing stress levels for the pets.

From an owner's point of view, they have to assess the severity of their pet's condition and decide when it might be an emergency, just as we do with ourselves or a relative and human illness.

A good receptionist will have been trained to make notes against each 'no-appointment' patient accordingly, as to the nature of the visit, eg. RTA cat, vomiting, cat bite abscess, etc. This will at least allow the vet to have a certain understanding of the next patient's predicament before they are in the consultation room.

The waiting room

A room full of a variety of sick animals, many of whom will be stressed themselves, can be extremely stressful, particularly for cats, who are not used to being away from home. If your cat is particularly nervous, they can feel more at ease if their carrier is covered. They will feel safely hidden inside and will not be able to see the other animals (and humans) that may otherwise be peering at them.

Of course some animals may be there for a routine procedure such as claw clipping rather than an illness and will not be necessarily feeling out of sorts. This can mean they are quite vocal but these appointments will all have been booked in, quite likely to a clinic run by a veterinary nurse and hopefully waiting times will be kept to a minimum in these circumstances.

Health checks are also an important part of life at a veterinary surgery and it is well worth taking your cat for a check up on a regular basis. 'Prevention is better than cure' has to be the best policy

and a regular, routine examination will make veterinary visits more familiar and therefore less frightening for your cat.

If you have made a routine appointment and have to wait longer than expected, try not to be annoyed. It could be you that has to make that emergency call one day and ask other owners to wait while your pet is given priority.

When is it an emergency?

If you have a sick cat that has been giving you increased cause for concern you will need to make the decision whether to call for an emergency visit to the vet. Try to give the receptionist as much information about your cat's symptoms as possible so that the vet has an idea of the problem when you arrive. Alternatively, if the condition is not too severe, you may be given advice over the phone as to how to treat the pet at home and keep them under observation. If in any doubt, ask to see the vet as soon as possible.

When you arrive at the surgery, you will be advised where to wait until you are called in to see the vet. Try to keep calm yourself as cats can pick up on our own anxiety which will only add to theirs. The vet will ask you about your cat, the illness or injury and make an assessment following an examination if need be.

Each animal will receive professional attention as soon as possible and will be treated appropriately. You will be advised if your pet needs to be kept at the surgery overnight or if any follow up appointments are required.

If in doubt

There are no hard and fast rules to veterinary science. Each pet is an individual and will react to an illness, injury and the treatment in its own way. Sometimes diagnosis will be straightforward but at other times, when the symptoms presented could belong to one of several conditions, more time and patience may be required.

Take your cat and other pets for an annual health check as that may detect a minor problem that can be easily treated before it becomes a more major issue. With preparation and understanding of what will be involved, visiting the vet should be something you do for the right reasons.

The main thing to remember if your pet does become ill is to stay calm, make them as comfortable as possible and if in any doubt, call your veterinary practice.

Indorex now 'blippable' on phones and tablets

Flea sprays get the hi-tech treatment with a new app cat owners can use on their phones and tablets.

Users of Indorex, Virbac's award-winning¹ veterinary household flea spray, can now access useful interactive information on flea control by using the Blippar app on their smart device and scanning the Indorex can.

Blippar can be downloaded free of charge to any smart device. When the Indorex can, or even an image of it, is scanned by the app, it appears to 'come to life' and offers information on how fleas and house dust mites affect us, a video showing how to use Indorex in the home and an interactive Q&A.

Kate Woolley MRCVS, Product Manager, said: "Fleas live both on our pets and in our homes. Using a spot-on treatment on pets plays an essential role in controlling them, but our homes need protection too. Indorex's unique formulation kills adult fleas in our homes for up to two months and continues to protect homes from fleas and house dust mites for a full year."

She added: "We have adopted this exciting new technology, already used by well-known brands such as Pizza Hut, Philadelphia and Heinz, to provide pet owners with information on flea control in a way that we hope they will find convenient, easy to access and fun."

Founded by a veterinary surgeon, Virbac is dedicated to supporting the veterinary profession through the development of innovative products and services, which help animals to lead longer, healthier lives. One of the largest independent veterinary pharmaceutical companies in the world, its wide product portfolio includes many market-leading and award-winning products for large and small animals.

● www.virbac.co.uk





Becoming an extraordinary cat

Four years ago, my life and Willow's was turned upside down when he was diagnosed with lymphoma and I am so pleased that we have now reached this point

By Sonja K Steiner



Willow has reached a huge milestone in his life as 25th July marked four years since he was diagnosed with lymphoma. What a journey we have come on. Willow's last chemotherapy session was in December 2012 but he continues to take all his homeopathic and herbal remedies that are prescribed by his holistic vet Tim Couzens.

When I look back at the photographs I took during his chemotherapy treatment, it looked like he had a short back and sides at the front with kitten type fur on his body. Now he looks like he has a long mane around the front with endless amount of fur on his body. He was very shy and timid; whenever there was a knock at the door he would run upstairs and stay there until any visitors had gone, except when his godmother and my best friend Jenny Dellipiani came to visit, when he would run down the stairs meowing to greet her, brushing up against her leg and wanting endless cud-

dles. Now when we have visitors Willow is the first to the door and loves all the attention he gets.

Willow is certainly enjoying life; he has become more vocal although not as loud as Suki and loves nothing more than chilling out and soaking up the sunshine in the garden. He allows me to me put sunscreen on his ears but I suspect that is because he gets a couple of biscuits as a reward! When it is time to go into the garden and I put his harness on, he always lifts his front left paw to make it easier, such a clever boy! Willow ensures that he lies in the direct flight path of the birds who fly from one side of the garden to another to their bird feeders. Several have had close encounters as he jumps in the air in his quest to catch them but luckily for our feathered friends, they were out of his reach! The field mice have proved to be a great source of entertainment for Willow too, as they dart in and out of the bushes; it is almost as if they know he can't get to them and are

teasing him whilst they eat!

Food time is definitely Willow's favourite pastime. As soon as he thinks it is near to feeding time he either sits in front of the bowl or the food cupboard, as if to give me a gentle reminder or he rushes downstairs from his afternoon sleep. In order to increase his fluid intake I always add water to his wet food. One afternoon Willow refused his biscuits and I had a feeling he had a fur ball. He laid on my lap and whilst giving Reiki I picked up on an energy block within the abdomen. Willow took a lot of Reiki and fell asleep in the process but when he had enough he jumped off my lap into the kitchen where he brought up a large fur ball. Needless to say the appetite returned shortly afterwards!

This year has not been a good year for me health wise and on top of that I had a cancer scare earlier this year which was a very stressful time for me. I had no idea what lay ahead and it was important that I sorted out all Willow's food so he got a

good variety of flavours, each numbered 1 to 10. I wrote out instructions for his medication and my father learnt how to syringe his triple nightly remedy. Willow is so good, as he lifts the left side of his mouth to allow the remedy to be syringed in. I tried to keep my stress levels to a minimum as the last thing I wanted was for Willow to pick up on it. I increased his Cystophan capsules to one a day. Somehow he just knew something was wrong, as every day he would lay next to me, snuggled up with his paw on my arm and every now and again he would put his paw gently on my face as a way of reassuring me.

When I came out of hospital after my general anaesthetic Willow was there. My recovery took longer but he was there by my side every step of the way. Thankfully the results were good news.

The window cleaner has proved not only to be a great source of amusement to Willow but also a form of much needed exercise. As the windows are cleaned, he darts around the house like a ping pong ball!

Whilst Suki loved being groomed, Willow is the complete opposite. I have a couple of different brushes and combs for him but either way, his tolerance of them is very limited so I have had to resort to trying to brush the more difficult parts whilst he is eating. It is not ideal but the food brings a welcome distraction!

In May Willow went to see his vet Mark Buxton from Vets4Pets for a health check and a dental check. Despite having fish flavoured toothpaste, a finger brush and a cat tooth brush, Willow simply would not tolerate it long enough for it to have a beneficial effect so I felt a dental at the vets was in order. Bloods out of the way and Willow was ready for his general anaesthetic, fluids included. Willow had two teeth removed as well as a scale and polish and with gleaming teeth and some antibiotics and pain relief, we came home. In order to help with the healing process Tim Couzens, Willow's homeopathic vet prescribed him a homeopathic remedy.

Willow's journey has surprised us all, he is a very happy and contented cat who I adore, love and cherish and we have been there for each other through thick and thin. He knows when I say "I love you Willow Bean" as he blinks his eyes slowly; I say how proud I am of him and he puts his paw on my hand and gently squeezes it, so he certainly understands what I say. I don't quite know where this



nickname came from but I started calling Willow "little Bean" - quite how 'little' came into it when he is nearly 6kg in weight I don't know. Now he is known affectionately as Willow Bean!

Many people have said Willow is so lucky to have me as his Mommy, but I am the lucky one, as he chose me to be the one that he wanted to spend his time with and care for him and to be in that position is truly an honour and a privilege.

My heartfelt thanks go to all those involved in Willow's care, his veterinary surgeons Mark and Cathy Buxton, Tim Couzens (and locum vet Kennedy Makonese) his veterinary nurses, Louise Mohan, Emma Spicer, Natasha Franklin Johnson and Amy Hooper and the veterinary receptionists who looked after me so well, Lisa Kirton, Claire Bainbridge and Kathryn Barnes.

Mark Buxton, BVetMed MRCVS said: "For Willow to get this far after being diagnosed with lymphoma is really something special. He has gone a long way over most of the 'average survival times' quoted in textbooks and he has proved to be quite extraordinary. He is a very special cat!"

Tim Couzens, BVetMed, MRCVS, VetMFHom, CertVetAc, is Willow's homeopathic vet from the Holistic Veterinary Medicine Centre. He continues to treat Willow with remedies and said: "Congratulations to both Sonja and Willow on reaching the end of another year. Willow is a remarkable cat whose

● Cat World readers may recall that I had the privilege of interviewing Iain A. Grant, BVSc MRCVS DipACVIM (medical oncology), who is a Specialist in Veterinary Oncology at the University of Glasgow, for an article I wrote a couple of years ago about Feline Lymphoma. I have kept in touch with Iain since then and asked him for his opinion on Willow's case:

"I think for any owner, the diagnosis of lymphoma in a much loved feline companion is associated with many feelings, including fear and doubt: Fear of the side effects of treatment and the outcome for their pet and doubt as to whether giving chemotherapy is the correct thing to do. Willow is an extraordinary cat and is testimony to what is possible when treatment is a success. I hope that his story and that of his owner, Sonja, will provide support and inspiration for others. Unfortunately very few cats will share Willow's extraordinary outcome but his story is one of hope and is testimony to the enduring nature of the human-animal bond. I thank all clinicians, conventional or complimentary, for what they have achieved."

survival is testament to use of both conventional and complementary medicine working in unison to improve animal well-being" 🐾

I would like to dedicate this article to a very dear and much loved friend, Gill Reed who passed away on 19 August 2015



Sweet smell or offensive odour?

Scented candles, room sprays, gel fresheners... making our homes smell good is big business these days but our cats are not impressed

Plug-ins, puffers, burners, reed diffusers...there are a multitude of scented products lined up on the shelves of supermarkets and department stores in every town, all pleading with us to make our homes smell better than they apparently do. While some humans may need to cover up unpleasant smells with a waft of lavender or apple blossom, our pets can often find these smells really unpleasant.

Fragrances to be really careful of are anything citrus or pine - both of these are extremely irritating to cats' noses and if overdone, can even be poisonous.

Why do they turn up their noses?

A cat's sense of smell is around 14 times better than a human's (a dog's is

40 times more sensitive!) Many mammals, including cats, have a special sensory organ called 'Jacobson's organ' or the vomeronasal organ. This is actually two pitted areas in the roof of the cat's mouth that are connected to the nasal passages. When the cat draws air into its mouth, scent passes over this organ so it can be analysed. Any unpleasant smells will produce a grimace in response.

If you imagine that from a cat's point of view, these strong scents, although beautiful to us, equate to them like a bin full of rotting food - very unpleasant indeed. When several different scents are used throughout the house, your pet will sometimes have no means of getting away from them.

It should be fine to light the occa-

sional scented candle or stick of incense but those items that produce a constant or regular spray of strong fragrance should really be avoided, as should strong essential and aromatherapy oils. After all, most pet owners are keen to encourage their pets to be around them, not running out through the door as soon as it is opened.

Always keep a look out for leaks of liquid pot pourri, fluid from plug in air fresheners and bottles of essential oils as all can be highly toxic to curious cats who may decide to have a lick. Keep refills stored in a secure place, away from inquisitive paws. 🐾



TIPS for homemade air fresheners

- For an easy to make room freshener, fill a spray bottle with a pint of cold water and a tablespoon of vanilla extract. This should be sufficient to eliminate cooking and pet odours
- Dip a few cotton wool balls in vanilla extract and place on a saucer or shallow bowl. Leave this close to the source of the odour but well out of the reach of children and animals.

Essential oils to avoid

This list is just some of the essential oils that are potentially poisonous to cats and is not all-inclusive:

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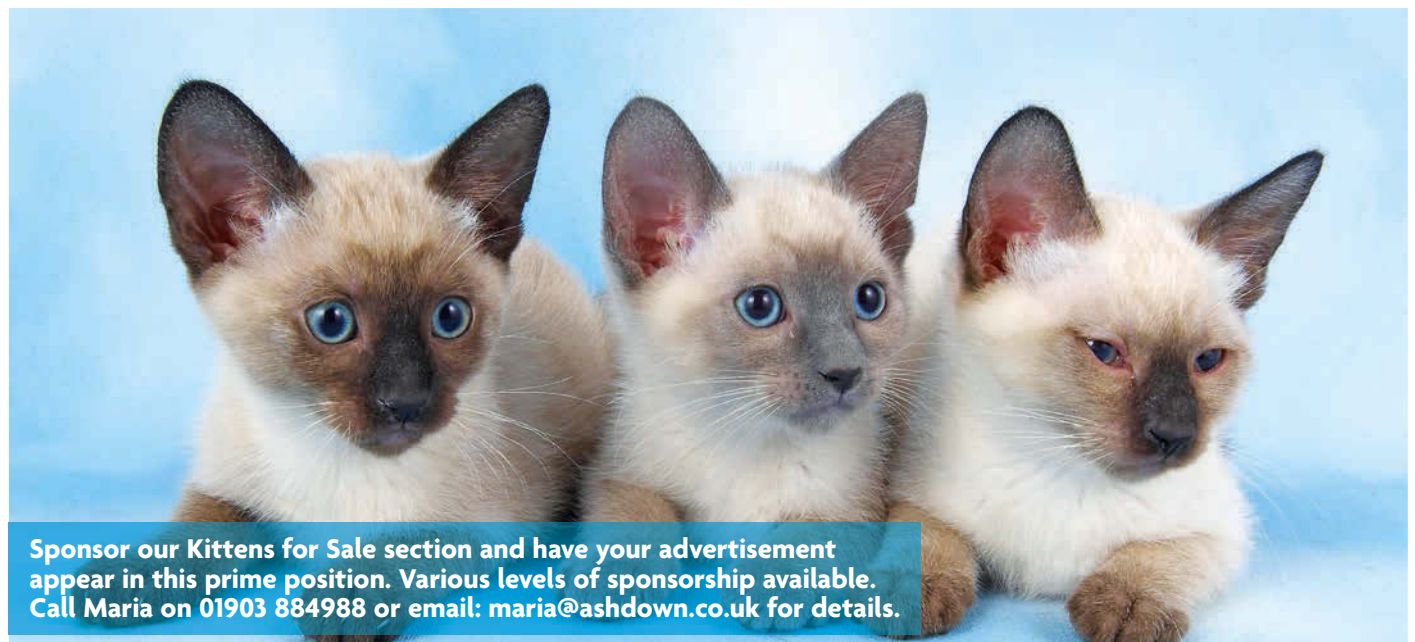
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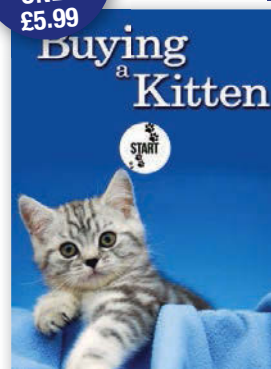


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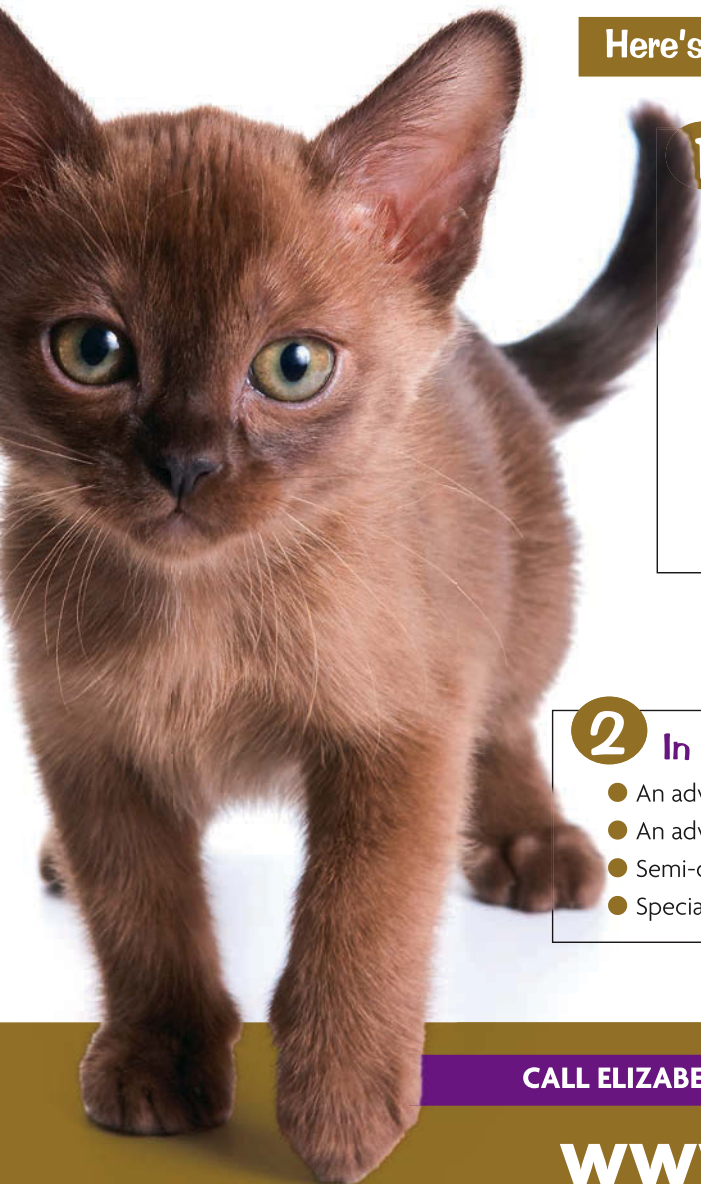
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Grooming: Easy

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Energy: High

Average Litter Size: 6

Temperament: Intelligent, playful, curious, loves company, including that of children and other pets.

CAT

Do not accept a poorly kitten. It should be bright and alert with clean skin and coat. No sneezing or runny eyes.

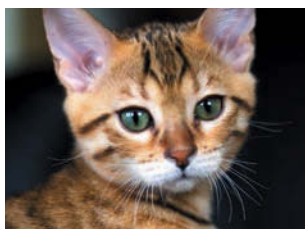
TIPS

THE LEADING BREED-BY-BREED GUIDE TO CATS & KITTENS FOR SALE

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

BOOK YOUR ADVERT OR SEARCH FOR KITTENS ONLINE AT WWW.CATWORLD.CO.UK

Advice for the first time kitten buyer



Here at Cat World we take every care to ensure that all those represented in our pages are reputable breeders.

However, to help ensure you are buying your precious kitten from the best possible home, there are several important points you should be aware of:

- The GCCF recommend that all kittens are house-trained, vaccinated and in good health before being placed in new homes. If a kitten doesn't look healthy don't buy it, no matter how cute it seems.

- Beware of buying under-age kittens. No reputable breeder will sell a kitten under 13 weeks of age.

- Your kitten's pedigree should show at least four generations. You can ask to see the pedigree at the outset, and make sure you get a copy when you collect your new kitten.

- Ensure you are also given registration documents, a transfer of ownership form, and vaccination certificates.

- You should also collect a diet sheet outlining the types of food the kitten is used to, and the appropriate times of feeding.

- Most importantly, be sure to check that your kitten's paperwork is in order at the time of purchase, and check that you fully understand the conditions of sale.

CAT

It is recommended that kittens should be at least 13 weeks of age before going to a new home

TIPS

LINCOLNSHIRE

Mrs P A Pallister, Sleaford.
PENWYNKATZ BURMESE. Cream*, Chocolate*, all colours possible. Home reared with children and dogs.
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pennypallister@talktalk.net

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Williams0ja@btinternet.com
Crowvalleycattery.co.uk

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www.lunaris.uk.com

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01359 221200
ann.mott@freeuk.com
www.ann.mott.freeuk.com

NEXT ISSUE

The Rex family



Breed profile - November issue 452

To advertise your Rex call Maria now on 01903 884988 or email maria@ashdown.co.uk

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CATBALU BRITISH, Selkirk Rex, Scottish Fold. Self, Bi-Colour, Tortie, Chocolate, Lilac, Cinnamon.
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web: www.catbalu.com

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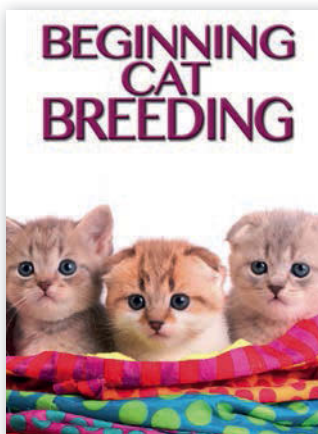
CAT

Do not bring a new kitten into a home where family routine is about to be disrupted

TIPS

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Now available from the app store is our brand new app Beginning Cat Breeding, perfect for cat lovers everywhere looking to take their first steps into the exciting world of breeding. Complete with interactive galleries and videos, we've got everything you'll need to get started, from selecting your breed right up to birth.

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Kindle users need not be disappointed. We're available on Amazon.



FACTS ABOUT CATS

1. A cat's collar bone is not connected to any other bones, which is what helps them squeeze into all those tight spots!

2. Cats respond most readily to names that end in an 'ee' sound.

3. The largest breed of cat is the Ragdoll; the males weigh in at around 20 pounds. The smallest breed is the Munchkin; (left), and the male weighs 7-9 pounds.

4. The most popular cat breeds in the UK are British Shorthairs, Siamese, Bengals and Persians.

5. A cat cannot see directly under its nose, which is why it may have a hard time finding tiny treats on the floor right in front of it.

6. In general, cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four on the back paws, unless they are polydactyl.

7. A cat has a total of 24 whiskers, with 4 rows of whiskers on each side. The upper two rows can move independently of the bottom two rows. As you know, a cat uses its whiskers for measuring distances and gaps.

8. Due to cat's nocturnal nature, they are often known to enter a period of increased hyperactivity and playfulness during the evening, dubbed the 'evening crazies', or 'mad half hour'.

9. Cats have much better noses than humans. A cat has approximately 60 to 80 million olfactory cells - a human has 5 to 20 million.

10. The first year of a cat's life equals (in terms of development) the first 15 years of a human life. After its second year, a cat is 25 in human years. After that, each year of a cat's life is equal to about 7 human years.

11. The hearing of the average cat is at least five times keener than that of a human adult. Careful what you say!

12. Cats have 32 muscles that control the outer ear (compared to human's 6 muscles each).

13. A cat can rotate its ears independently 180 degrees, and can turn in the direction of sound 10 times faster than the best watchdog.



THE LEADING BREED-BY-BREED GUIDE TO CATS & KITTENS FOR SALE

STUD DIRECTORY



BOOK YOUR ADVERT OR SEARCH FOR KITTENS ONLINE AT WWW.CATWORLD.CO.UK

To help you find a suitable stud, this list gives the names of studs, and brief details of parentage, together with owner's name.

Further details appear under the relevant county in the BREEDERS DIRECTORY (unless the county is followed by an *).

10 CHINCHILLA

Gorgeous chunky silver boy (carrying gold). Good type and eye colour, fabulous temperament. DNA PKD and FELV negative, fully vaccinated. Limited availability to experienced, tested and vaccinated queens. 07709772938
wishlistpersians@yahoo.co.uk

13CI BIRMAN SEAL POINT

Grand CH, Snowqueen Charles Lafitte 13CI (Blood group "A"). Sire Foye Champagne Charlie 13CI. Dam Snowqueen Jasmine 13C2. Charlie has excellent type and temperament also very good blue eye colour. Supervised matings. Contact Mrs Viv Green 01379 898884. Email: vivi.green@btinternet.com

13C12 BIRMAN BLUE TABBY POINT

Ch Jandouglen Cuil Lodair. Ch Camulodunum Jandouglen Ben 13c12 x Camulodunum Ladyoftiree 13c2 carries dilute. Super temperament. Supervised matings. Mrs Ann Mott, Suffolk 01359 221200. Email: ann.mott@freeuk.com

15 BLACK BSH

Vinery Zanzibar (GrCh Catbalu HarryPotter 15c x Ch Sheephouse Winnie-Niger 15) Blood Group B Carries Lilac and Chocolate Sussex 07713270755

15D RED SELF BSH

Achuri Erik. Gr Ch Satinmist Apollo (15) x Achuri Iolanthe (31f). Five Merits. Blood Group A. Sire of many winners. Miss R. M. Stiles. DEVON. 01803 327811.

Call Elizabeth on
01903 884988 or email
elizabeth@ashdown.co.uk
or see page 75 more details

16 BLUE BSH

Vinery Devon (Sheephouse SunnyJim 31d x Westways AzureLatte 28) Blood Group AB Carries Lilac and Chocolate Sussex 07713 270755

Achuri Meconopsis. Champion Achuri Meconopsis Miletree Tushka (16) x Achuri Mayqueen (16) blood group A. Tested queens only. Lovely eye colour. Friendly gentle temperament. Miss R M Stiles. DEVON. 01803 327811.

19 RED TABBY BSH

Baritophanie Merlin (19) GCh Vectensian Red Admiral (19) x Dubolly Brilliant Red (19). Very loving and gentle boy. Margaret Wood. Middx. 0208 894 3544.
rogerwood01@tiscali.co.uk

27 BROWN BURMESE

Ch Chinkara Joe Brown. Planxty Dragonheart (27) x Gr Ch Chinkara MixnMatch (27e). Carries Blue and Chocolate. Approved tested queens only. Mrs Carolyn Clark. ESSEX. 01206 331376. Email: carolyn@chinkara.freeseve.co.uk

27C LILAC BURMESE

UK & Imp Gr Ch Anokhi Boy George. IGR Ch Anokhi Masterblaster (27a) x UK Gr Ch Mainman Kissangel (27b). Supervised matings to recently tested queens. Luxury stud-house. An experienced gentle boy siring healthy kittens of superb type & temperament including show winners. Mrs Mary Moore. OXFORDSHIRE 01608 810631. Email: dulcamara-burmese@zen.co.uk

27B CHOCOLATE BURMESE

Gr Ch. Chathera Catotigernos. Sire Prefere Chocolate Rondo (27b) x G Ch Chathera Miranda (27c) Super temperament. Carries Blue. Approved tested

queens only. Mrs P. A Pallister. LINCOLNSHIRE. 01529 302236. Email: pennypallister@talktalk.net

27F CREAM BURMESE

UK Gr Ch Penwynkatz Creme Delight. Sire UK & Imp G Ch Chathera Coolcolombo (27c) x Ch Oakford Amira (27j) Super temperaments. Lilac Based. Approved tested queens only. Mrs P.A. Pallister. LINCOLNSHIRE. 01529 302236. Email: pennypallister@talktalk.net

31D RED/WHITE BI.COL. BSH

Sheephouse Sunny Jim. Catbalu Macduff (31f) x Sheephouse Speciality (21b). Supervised matings. Limited stud. Jenny Vaughan. EAST SUSSEX. 01825 840236. Email: jcartervaghan@aol.com

31F CREAM & WHITE BSH

Vinery Cattuccino (Sheephouse SunnyJim 31d X Westways AzureLatte 28) Blood Group A Sussex 07713 270755

54 GOLDEN PERSIAN LH

Admewlo Charlie Boy. Adentlo Golden Billyboy (54) x Adentlo Dillylilly (10). Hand-some, friendly, affectionate. Sires beautiful kittens. Mrs Shakides. KENT. 01322 280795. Email: shaklaw@ntlworld.com

MAINE COON

Acoonamatata Fire in the Sky. Gr Ch Acoonamatata Quiff Riley 64 43 fsw Mullycoonz Sapphire Mist 64 18g. Gentle experienced boy. HCM negative. Supervised matings. Limited stud. Approved FELV/FIV tested Queens only. Siring beautiful kittens. Marian Denyer Sussex 07946716424. Email: catriona.cats@gmail.com

66W SEAL POINT MITTED RAGDOLL

Ch Willowbeck Wolf Ofemerisle. Adentlo Ambrose Ofemerisle (66w) x Emerisle Mistee Morn (66a). Stunning large boy of superb original Ragdoll type. Heart tested normal for MYBPC3 gene and FELV & FIV neg. Faultless temperament, gentle and patient with novice queens. Deep, deep blue eyes finish off this perfect boy. Stud and kitten enquiries. Mrs J. Fitzpatrick. YORKSHIRE. 01943 461852 or 07774 650217. Email: fitzpatrick.jeanette@googlemail.com

76B30 BLUE-EYED SNOW SPOTTED

Jetspots Mr Bombastic. Benlotte Crescendo (76a30) x Karsuka Suneta Sharma (76b30). Big beautiful boy, extremely gentle, brand new stud quarters and fully supervised matings. Tested queens only. GCCF & TICA registered. Mrs Davida Bemister. DORSET/HAMPSHIRE BORDER. Email: davidabemister@sky.com www.bootyliciouscats.co.uk. 01202 479439.

RAGDOLLS

Emerisle (various boys, some are titled). All active boys heart tested normal for MYBPC3 gene and FELV & FIV neg. All have fabulous size, type, temperament and eye-colour. All patterns in Cream, Blue & Seal, Mrs Jeanette Fitzpatrick. YORKSHIRE. 01943 461852/ 07774-650217. Email: fitzpatrick.jeanette@googlemail.com

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Ferry Vom Friedewald. Snowangels Hitop Sneakers (83w) x Southpole Xshu Xshu (83aw). Gentle affectionate boy. Siring top quality kittens. Mollie Southall. WARWICKSHIRE. 01926 402937. Email: coldenufforsnow@hotmail.co.uk

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www.catworld.co.uk



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www.catworld.co.uk



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www.catworld.co.uk



2 CONTACT US TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT

-  **Trade advertisers freephone: 0800 435553**
-  **Book online: www.catworld.co.uk**
-  **Email: maria@ashdown.co.uk**
-  **Post to: Cat World, PO Box 2258 PULBOROUGH RH20 9BA Great Britain**

3 IF POSTING YOUR ADVERT PLEASE SEND YOUR TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPH USING THE FORM BELOW

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☐ Colour display without photo (4x1)

Name:

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